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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-183 *21 September 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Foreign Ministers Hold Session in Cairo

Libya's al-Fazzani Arrives

NC1909055695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0530 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—Jum'ah al-Fazzani, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, arrived here early this morning from Tunis to attend the 104th session of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting. It is scheduled to open tomorrow, Wednesday.

Speaking upon arrival, al-Fazzani affirmed that the Libyan Jamahiriyah is extremely eager to promote common and collective Arab action to introduce a qualitative change both in the style and mechanism of inter-Arab action. He noted that his country had earlier proposed a draft plan for Arab unity that sought to consolidate and activate institutions dealing with common Arab action and abide by all standing agreements, particularly the agreement on economic unity and the Joint Defense Pact. He added that Libya will back any step toward fulfilling that strategic goal.

Al-Fazzani added that he will meet on the sidelines of the Arab meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and other Egyptian officials to discuss Egyptian-Libyan ties and ways to implement all the decisions of the joint higher committee to serve the interests of the two fraternal peoples.

Al-Fazzani on Palestinians' Deportation

NC1909143495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1310 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met with Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Unity, at noon today.

Al-Fazzani said afterward that he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid reviewed current Arab issues, the Arab League's efforts to solve the Libyan-Western crisis and its future role in implementing the resolutions of the Arab seven-member committee charged with finding a peaceful and fair solution to this dispute. He added that the Arab seven-member committee will convene on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings in New York.

He expressed his great appreciation for the efforts made by President Husni Mubarak and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to solve the Palestinian people's problem, noting their right to return to their land.

He asserted that no single Palestinian is being deported from Libya and said that the current measures with regard to the Palestinians' return are being carried out of their own will. Emphasizing that this is an essential issue, he said, no matter how the Arab Libyan decision is misinterpreted or no matter how certain media try to mislead the Arab and world public, the entire world knows very well the true Arab Libyan-Palestinian stand.

Al-Fazzani said the Arab Palestinian people are being subjected to a serious conspiracy aiming to "weaken" the Palestinian cause. He noted that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency suffered severe financial crises leading to its bankruptcy and that this will make the refugees issue forgotten. He added that the time has come to highlight the Palestinian refugees' repatriation to their homes and original homeland.

Replying to a question on the deportation of Palestinian refugees residing in Libya, he denied that their return is compulsory, saying: These claims are completely false and untrue.

He said ask the Palestinian or Lebanese embassy in Tripoli or any impartial Palestinian about what really happened. He asked: Who is now lamenting the Palestinians who have been living in refugee camps in some Arab countries for a long time? He said it was time the Palestinian refugees returned to their homes in 'Akko, Yafo, Hebron, and all the Palestinian territories, criticizing the Oslo self-rule Accord.

Al-Fazzani answered a question on the outcome of contacts which Egypt and the Arab League have held with Libya at the request of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. He said: We value Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's and the Arab League's efforts. However, the return of the Palestinian refugees to their homes is an issue concerning the Palestinian people who have the full right to return to their original homeland.

PLO Envoy Assails Lebanese Minister's Remarks

NC2009092595 Paris AFP in English
0847 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Sept 20 (AFP)—The PLO on Wednesday [20 September] slammed Lebanese Tourism Minister Nicholas Fattush for describing Palestinians expelled from Libya as "human waste."

"It is a disgusting declaration from a minister devoid of any morals," the PLO's representative to the Arab League Muhammad Subayh said before the opening of a meeting of the organisation's foreign ministers here.

Fattush reportedly said that the Palestinians were "human waste being dumped in Lebanon."

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But on Friday he qualified his remarks saying he had been misunderstood, adding: "What I wanted to say was that no country in the world has the right to use the Palestinian people as human waste."

Subayh however said the explanation was insufficient.

The minister was sharply criticised in Lebanon by the media and several political figures called for his resignation.

But Lebanese Transport Minister 'Umar Misqawi later told a Palestinian delegation the remarks were merely a "slip of the tongue" which did not reflect official Lebanese position.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi began to throw out 30,000 Palestinians in Libya at the beginning of the month in a bid to illustrate that the Israel-PLO autonomy accords have not created a Palestinian homeland.

Lebanon and Egypt have both refused to take in the expelled Palestinians, leaving about 150 stranded at a no-man's land between the Libyan and Egyptian borders for more than two weeks.

Late Tuesday officials at the PLO headquarters in Tunis announced they had set up a crisis team to deal with the situation.

The expulsions are not on the agenda for the Arab League meeting due to start here Wednesday, but will be taken up on the sidelines in meetings between the PLO, the League and Libya.

Arab League secretary general Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met with the Libyan Arab Unit Minister Jum'ah al-Fazzani on Tuesday to discuss the expulsions and was due to meet Wednesday with the head of the PLO's politburo Faruq Qaddumi, Subayh said.

Kuwaiti Minister on Yemen, League Meeting

LD1909193095 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Cairo this evening. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad will be leading the Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting of the Arab League Council and the meeting of the foreign ministers of the signatories of the Damascus Declaration which will be held there tomorrow. Our correspondent in Cairo, Hanan Mansur, sent us the following report:

[Mansur] Ladies and gentlemen: After attending the meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers which ended in Riyadh today, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir arrived at Cairo International Airport at 1750 to attend the meeting of the Arab League Council. At the airport, his excellency answered a few questions:

[Begin recording] [Sabah al-Ahmad] There is an agenda for the current Arab League meeting. We will express our views during this evening if views are expressed on this agenda.

[Unidentified correspondent] The Government of Kuwait has agreed, as we have heard, to receive a Yemeni parliamentary delegation next month. Can we expect to see something new in the Yemeni-Kuwaiti track, particularly after the invasion disaster?

[Sabah al-Ahmad] First of all, I would like to say that regarding the Yemeni parliamentary delegation, it has indeed asked to visit Kuwait. The matter concerns the Kuwaiti parliament and its acceptance. The matter is in the hands of the Kuwaiti National Assembly. In fact, there might be an agreement to receive the delegation. We are aware that the delegation is headed by Mr. 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, who has his stands. We will not forget his positions during the occupation of Kuwait. We hope to see him in Kuwait in good health.

I do not know why the issue of the meeting I had with the Jordanian foreign minister has been blown out of proportion. First of all, my relationship with the Jordanian foreign minister, regardless of the poor relations that might exist between Jordan and Kuwait... [pauses] The personal relations are human relations between two men. Moreover, I am meeting him in the framework of the Arab League meetings. We will talk as we always do and there is no rapprochement on this matter.

[Correspondent] With regard to the meeting of the Damascus Declaration [words indistinct].

[Sabah al-Ahmad] First of all, I would like to confirm that there will indeed be a meeting of the signatories of the Damascus Declaration on the sidelines of the Arab League meeting. I can also confirm that Kuwait has sent its acceptance of the Damascus Declaration document. Other states have also accepted. I hope that all the states will send their acceptance on this matter. This will then be submitted to the Arab League. [end recording]

Iraq's al-Sahhaf Meets Sudanese Counterpart

JN2009140295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met at his place of residence today with Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha.

During the meeting, the two ministers discussed the means to promote fraternal bilateral ties. They also conducted a thorough review of the current Arab state

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of affairs and debated the topics listed on the agenda of the current session of the Arab League Council, which begins its meetings here today.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League.

Al-Sahhaf Meets Qatari Counterpart

JN2009185895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister and head of the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the Arab foreign ministers which started here today, met with his Qatari counterpart Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani.

The correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency in Cairo said that the talks addressed the latest Arab developments and issues of common interest. The two ministers also discussed the means of promoting and enhancing fraternal bilateral ties in all spheres. Furthermore, they underlined the importance of promoting joint Arab action in the higher interest of the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League.

PLO's Qaddumi To Discuss Expulsions

NC2009155295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi arrived in Cairo this afternoon to participate in the meetings of the Arab foreign ministers, which opened at the Arab League today.

He said he will hold talks with Arab foreign ministers on the problem of Palestinian deportees from Libya.

On developments in the peace process, Qaddumi said: I am still saying that Israel does not respect its dates or agreements. The Palestinian people will not accept the solutions Israel is imposing on them. We will continue the struggle until we regain our full rights.

Arab League Chief Addresses Meeting

NC2009150595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stressed that Arab reconciliation is essential for resolving existing and potential crises that hinder the nation's progress and the building of its future.

Addressing the opening meeting of the 104th session of the Arab League Council today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said Arab reconciliation is not an emotional issue or an invocation of close bonds of a common language, creed, history, and psychological makeup, but a necessity dictated by the instinct for survival and the need to restore confidence between brothers.

He said Arab reconciliation must be the real beginning of every effort seeking to serve the nation, preserve its security and the future of its generations, and prepare it to live in dignity and pride in a world that recognizes only big and strong entities and groups.

He said reconciliation and restoration of Arab solidarity require several measures, notably the plan for an honor charter on Arab security and cooperation. It was called for by President Husni Mubarak during the Arab League celebration of its 50th anniversary on 22 March.

He explained that the Arab honor charter seeks to achieve three substantive things: To prevent the emergence of destructive differences in the future, to ensure that any dispute is contained in a way that does not allow the situation to explode as seen before, and to get all members of the Arab family to adopt a position that leads to settling the dispute and preventing its aggravation, even if this requires the use of improvised mechanisms and methods. [passage omitted]

On Middle East peace, the Arab League secretary general noted that the process is moving slowly and with extreme difficulty, which threatens the entire peaceful settlement with deadlocks and setbacks.

He stressed that peace cannot be achieved without Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories in the Syrian Golan, southern Lebanon, and Palestine, and the attainment of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. This includes their right to establishing an independent state on their entire national soil, with holy Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 425, 252, and 478.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed deep indignation at Israel's continuing attempts to Judaize Jerusalem, change its demographic status, build Jewish settlements around it, and expand the city's boundaries by confiscating houses and endowment property and by coercing citizens and looting their private property. [passage omitted]

The Arab League secretary general said in his speech to the opening session of the Arab League Council that the Gulf crisis is among the challenges that hamper the solidarity of the Arab nation. He noted that this crisis is still the biggest challenge to Arab solidarity.

He said that while the Arab League is deeply concerned that Iraq's unity and territorial integrity be safeguarded

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and the Iraqi people not be subjected to any harm, Iraq, having accepted all Security Council resolutions relevant to the Gulf crisis, has to implement all these resolutions.

He noted that the Arab League welcomed Iraq's decision to recognize Kuwait's sovereignty and independence in accordance with the UN resolutions. He said this is a step in the right direction toward Iraq's complete implementation of the remaining Security Council resolutions. These resolutions constitute an integrated whole and need to be implemented.

He said the faster fraternal Iraq implements these resolutions, especially those related to prisoners, detainees, and missing people; to the return of property; and to reparations, the faster the suffering of the Iraqi people will end.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the Lockerbie issue is another challenge facing the Arab nation. He referred to the Arab League General Secretariat's efforts to settle this issue on the basis of international law, international legitimacy, and Libyan sovereignty.

He cited a proposal made by the Arab League Council in its 101st session in March 1994 which calls for holding a fair trial of the two Libyan suspects before Scottish judges and under Scots Law at the headquarters of The Hague's International Court of Justice [ICJ].

'Abd-al-Majid added that Iran's occupation of Arab islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates is another challenge facing the nation. He said Iran must comply with international law and show responsiveness to the Arab League's call to settle this dispute peacefully, including recourse to the ICJ. He added that this can be done in a context of good neighborliness and mutual respect in order to avert the serious repercussions to the region's security and stability that the continued occupation of those islands might have.

Noting that the Somali crisis remains unsettled despite the efforts made by the Arab League General Secretariat in cooperation with the United Nations and the OAU, he said that the Somali leaders are still not serious about attaining national reconciliation, preserving fraternal Somalia's unity, security, and independence, and sparing its people the calamities of division and armed conflict.

'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that still another challenge is to turn the Middle East into a region free of weapons of mass destruction. Citing the efforts the Arab League has made in this connection, he declared that Israel continues to monopolize nuclear weapons that threaten regional peace and security. He reiterated the two principles stated in the Arab League Council's Resolution 5455, adopted in March 1994. The first principle is that Middle Eastern security and stability require that all weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, biological, and chemical, be eliminated. The second principle maintains that the continuation of the Israeli nuclear program, in isolation from international nonproliferation arrangements, poses a threat to regional security and undermines the credibility and international character of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said another challenge that must be tackled is the effort to expand the UN Security Council's [permanent] membership to include Arab countries, particularly in view of the respectable ratio of Arab representation in the United Nations and Arab political and economic influence.

He added that the Arab countries must pay attention to another aspect of their common relations, namely in the sphere of economic development. He said it is necessary to strengthen economic ties among the Arab countries as the only method by which the Arab nation can resist future attempts by other parties to dominate its economic interests.

He cited other challenges confronting Arab economic security in the dual sphere of food and water resources. He said this makes it necessary to formulate a long-term Arab strategy to protect Arab resources, notably water resources, and fight desertification.

'Abd-al-Majid continued that these challenges make it necessary to formulate an Arab economic position on international economic changes and to coordinate stands on Amman's economic summit, which will meet in October. He also said that the Barcelona conference on Euro-Mediterranean partnership is an important development in trans-Mediterranean relations.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also referred to the serious phenomenon of terrorism and extremism evident in some parts of the Arab world, noting that this phenomenon hinders Arab economic development.

League's First Closed Session Ends

NC2009152595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab League Council ended its first closed working session under Bahraini Foreign Minister Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah this afternoon. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said afterwards that the 45-item agenda was approved. Chief among the items on the agenda, he said, was the plan for an Arab honor charter for security and cooperation and the plan to establish an Arab justice court. He said the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states will meet later today to review the current Arab situation and to

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continue discussion of the framework of Arab action, which was drafted at the meeting of the Damascus Declaration states in Bahrain in July.

The Arab League Council is scheduled to resume its meetings this evening to discuss items on the agenda. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said the Arab honor charter is one of the important topics on the agenda, and must be presented to the upcoming first Arab summit.

Damascus Declaration Ministers Meet

NC2009142295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—Foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries began a working session this evening under the chairmanship of Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah on the sidelines of the Arab League Ministerial Council meetings.

The ministers are discussing a working paper on coordination and cooperation among the group members in political and economic fields.

Syria's al-Shar' on Damascus Declaration Meeting

JN2009171295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo—Foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration's states held a meeting today on the sidelines of the Arab League Council meetings in the presence of Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister and head of the Syrian delegation to the meetings.

In a statement after the meeting, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the current meeting was designed to finalize the discussions on the framework of joint Arab action which was drafted in the previous meeting of the Damascus Declaration states in July. Musa also said the meeting was intended to discuss ways to enhance cooperation among the Damascus Declaration states.

Arab diplomatic sources close to the meeting said the Middle East situation and the obstacles to the peace process were discussed, particularly the obstacles Israel is placing on the Syrian track. The sources asserted that the participants in the meeting reiterated their support for the Syrian position on the negotiations. The participants also stressed Iraq's unity and territorial integrity and rejected the division of Iraqi territory. [passage omitted]

Damascus Declaration Ministers on UNGA Stands

NC2009204295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2013 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—Foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries this evening held a meeting with their counterparts of the Arab Maghreb Union countries on the sidelines of the Arab League Ministerial Council meetings. It was attended by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

The meeting aims to coordinate Arab stands on topics concerning the Arab and Islamic world at the UN General Assembly [UNGA] meetings.

Iraq, Syria Call For Arab Summit

JN2009191895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1826 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (INA)—Iraq and Syria today called for the convening of an Arab summit to endorse a draft Arab Honor Pact that prohibits the use of force and that primarily provides for the launch of an Arab court of justice and good offices committees to resolve inter-Arab disputes.

Egypt was not enthusiastic about the idea of convening such a summit. It argued that it prefers to see this pact endorsed by the Arab League Ministerial Council, which began its 104th session in Cairo today.

In a press statement, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: We do not have any reservations on the draft Arab Honor Pact. Nonetheless, this pact is an extremely important document that needs to be endorsed by an Arab summit.

For his part and in a separate statement, Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf stressed the need to convene an Arab summit for this purpose.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the idea of convening a summit for this purpose was raised and will be discussed at the Ministerial Council meeting. The last Arab summit was held in 1990.

Jordanian, Kuwaiti Foreign Ministers Meet

JN2009201795 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Jordanian] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti met with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in Cairo this evening. Discussions dealt with bilateral relations.

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Al-Kabariti said the meeting was positive and needs to be followed up and developed. For his part, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said after the meeting that contacts and dialogue between Jordan and Kuwait will continue. He also said: We seek to agree on clear principles that govern future relations between the two countries.

Ministers End Second Working Session

NC2009210495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—Arab foreign ministers ended a second working session this evening. The session saw protracted discussions on the main two items on the political committee's agenda: the establishment of an Arab court of justice and an Arab honor, security, and cooperation pact.

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister and chairman of the current session, said that in its evening session the council discussed several topics concerning the Palestinian issue, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Middle East peace process, and the Arab honor pact.

MENA has learned that the Arab foreign ministers intend to refer the items concerning the establishment of an Arab court of justice and an Arab honor pact to committees to be formed from the member countries. The aim is to complete discussion of the two topics and to add a Tunisian proposal on establishing a mechanism to resolve conflicts among Arab countries by peaceful means to the item on the Arab court of justice so that both items can be discussed simultaneously.

The Arab foreign ministers are scheduled to resume the 104th session tomorrow morning, Thursday [21 September], to continue the discussion of other topics on the agenda and issue resolutions and recommendations.

Ministers Divided Over Emergency Summit

NC2109065795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab foreign ministers resume meetings of the 104th round of the Arab League Council in Cairo this morning to finalize discussion of the articles on the agenda and issue recommendations on them. The Arab foreign ministers last night discussed establishing the Arab Court of Justice and the Arab honor, security, and cooperation pact.

Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stated that the two articles on establishing the Arab Court of Justice and the Arab honor, security, and cooperation pact were postponed until the next round of the League Council.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, in statements after the second round of meetings, said there is an agreement in principle among the member countries regarding the Arab honor pact and all the items and charters it contains. He pointed out that the Arab League Secretariat, in light of the agreements, will follow up on any studies, details, or mechanisms for implementation.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said views were divided over convening an emergency Arab summit to agree on the Arab honor pact. At the same time he said the Arab member countries agree in principle on the draft charter. Therefore, this topic will be postponed for detailed discussion and study.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Reiterates Conditions for Peace

NC2109112195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1102 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has stated that Israel does not want to complete the peace process. He expressed regret because the two cosponsors of the peace conference are not trying to speed up the peace process in the Middle East.

Qaddumi described the current peace process as a "failure." He said Israel is trying to impose its own terms, without regard for the agreements and bases on which the peace process is founded.

Qaddumi said the Palestinians will not give up demanding Israel's withdrawal from all Palestinian territories, including Hebron—the city of martyrs. He explained that if Israel wants peace it must withdraw from Hebron and all Palestinian towns and remove the Jewish settlers from Hebron.

Hamas Spokesman on Relations With PA, Others

JN2009111995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 20 Sep 95 p 18

[Interview with Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas official spokesman by Riyad Mansur; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mansur] According to our information, the state of affairs within the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is not normal, as it witnesses a tug of war between moderates and extremists. This shows that the earthquake which has shaken the Marxist world has reached the Islamic movement.

[Ghawshah] First of all, you did not specify the degree of this earthquake on the Richter scale. Second, it is

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not true that the situation within Hamas is not normal. All that is taking place has to do with the issue of the formation of a party. This dialogue started before the Palestinian Authority [PA] entered the self-rule areas. The movement witnessed intensive discussions between those abroad and those in the occupied territories until agreement was reached to form a political party. This party will be announced at the appropriate time.

It is not true what some say that the party will pave the way for Hamas to join the PA and participate in the elections. This was made clear a long time ago. When 'Arafat entered Gaza he sent [Fatah Central Committee Member] 'Abbas Zaki to offer us four seats. We rejected this offer. Had the movement wanted to join the PA, it would have joined it at that time. We will not join the PA or participate in the elections.

[Mansur] PA Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn met with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, and the Palestinian minister announced after this that Hamas offered concessions during that meeting?

[Ghawshah] Let me ask you a question: Was there a movement throughout history which conducted negotiations in prison? The answer is no. Then, what Abu-Middayn says is not true. All those who want to hold a dialogue know the address of Hamas. The Fatah movement's command knows this address very well. Did it not send 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya to conduct a dialogue with the Hamas leaders abroad? Didn't 'Arafat send an invitation for dialogue in Khartoum? We regret that the PA did not come.

I would like to reiterate that Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar does not have the final say in the Hamas Movement. Also, the PA wants to exploit Dr. al-Zahhar's presence in jail and to persecute him.

[Mansur] Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, said the movement's sole condition for dialogue with the PA is that it releases all the Hamas cadres who are in Palestinian jails. Is this not a departure from Hamas political stand?

[Ghawshah] Following the bloody Friday in the Gaza Strip and when there was danger of intra-Palestinian fighting, the movement studied the situation and said that if the condition on the need to topple the Oslo agreement could help in appeasing the situation and eliminating the causes for clashes in the self-rule areas, particularly in the Gaza Strip, then this is something good. However, Hamas will not insist on this condition. This does not mean that Hamas has changed its stand on the Oslo agreement. This means that Hamas has adopted a flexible stand to facilitate meetings and dialogue as some used to say that it is impermissible to place impossible conditions if one wants to serve the Palestinian people's interests and protect their national unity.

Thus, we demonstrated that we were ready for dialogue, and Hamas went to Khartoum when Dr. Hasan al-Turabi extended an invitation for a dialogue there. But, regrettably, 'Arafat did not come. Instead, he launched a wide-scale arrest campaign against the movement's leaders and cadres. Under these circumstances, it was impossible to hold a dialogue. A dialogue can be held only if the PA and the Fatah Movement sincerely want such a dialogue. If the PA is sincere, then it must release the Hamas prisoners.

[Mansur] The political stand of Faruq Qaddumi, Abu-al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, is becoming close to that of the Palestinian opposition. Are you coordinating with him?

[Ghawshah] Abu-al-Lutf was supposed to meet with Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq last March, but he apologized for not being able to make it. We recently met with him in Amman. He said that he would meet with the Hamas Movement when he returns from Damascus, but unfortunately he did not show up and we are still waiting for him.

[Mansur] How does Hamas assess Abu-al-Lutf's recent stands?

[Ghawshah] We, in Hamas, care for deeds rather than intentions. The project recently presented by Qaddumi could be better than that of the PA. At the same time, however, Qaddumi's project still falls short of what we want. We support some issues he proposed such as stopping arrests and repression against the Palestinian people and ending blackmail and corruption which has spread in self-rule areas as noted by Abu-al-Lutf.

However, we, in Hamas, think that this falls short of the Palestinian people's legitimate demands. At the same time, however, we urge Abu-al-Lutf and the wing that he represents in the PLO Central Committee to show more steadfastness against the various temptations. The most prominent members of the Fatah Central Committee began to enter PA areas with Israel's approval. If they continue to do so, then Abu-al-Lutf will become alone and isolated and will no longer represent a current. He will be singing outside his flock.

[Mansur] Do you think Abu-al-Lutf represents a certain line among the Palestinian people?

[Ghawshah] Whoever examines Abu-al-Lutf's actions will find that they are far from the bases of Fatah and its masses and that he formulates his own political

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theories. It is hoped that some of Qaddumi's proposals will receive a response from within Fatah.

[Mansur] You have returned from Saudi Arabia. What did you do there there?

[Ghawshah] I went to perform the minor pilgrimage.

[Mansur] Was it a political pilgrimage?

[Ghawshah] Pilgrimage is pilgrimage.

[Mansur] Did you meet with Saudi officials?

[Ghawshah] No I did not.

[Mansur] It is reported that you are one of the strongest candidates to succeed Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq as chairman of Hamas Political Bureau?

[Ghawshah] Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq is still head of the Political Bureau and Hamas has not made changes in this regard. When Hamas finds that a change is needed, it will not hesitate to elect a new leadership and will announce it at the right time. As for myself, I am actually the official spokesman of the Hamas Movement. Whatever is reported otherwise is untrue.

[Mansur] Why are the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions quiet at present?

[Ghawshah] I have nothing to do with the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions. They have their own independent leadership and work independent of Hamas. Therefore, I cannot say what I do not know.

[Mansur] To what extent do you coordinate with Hizballah?

[Ghawshah] Hizballah works on Lebanese territory, while Hamas works on Palestinian territory. Therefore, there is no coordination between us.

[Mansur] But it is said that Hizballah and Hamas have the same terms of reference.

[Ghawshah] Hizballah receives support from Iran, whereas Hamas gets support from the Palestinian people. Hamas acts in the interest of the Palestinian people within the limits of the Islamic doctrine.

[Mansur] Back to the problems experienced by Hamas.

[Ghawshah] This information is baseless. Hamas is a cohesive ideological movement.

[Mansur] But what happened within the movement? I want an response to the information I have.

[Ghawshah] There are persistent attempts on the part of the PA to fragment this movement and transform it from a movement of jihad into a political one. This is the first step. The second step is to preoccupy it with politics in order to terminate its jihad, because if Hamas continues to resist the Zionist enemy, the conflict will continue and the Palestinian file will remain open.

[Mansur] This conflicts with the information we have.

[Ghawshah] Yes, Yasir 'Arafat tries to influence the weak-willed Hamas figures who are not influential within the movement. Let me tell you now that the Authority will announce the formation of new religious parties which will be led by well-known Hamas figures. This will have only marginal impact on the movement. The PA will be deceiving itself if it propagates that it has penetrated Hamas.

[Mansur] But the Authority has succeeded in penetrating Hamas.

[Ghawshah] Penetration included only minor figures, whom 'Arafat managed to bribe with money, posts, and empty military titles. Hamas is not infallible, but what is important is that 'Arafat could not get to the heart of the movement. Any successful achievements on his part will not affect the movement.

[Mansur] So Hamas was actually shaken.

[Ghawshah] We have exposed the scenarios of those who are influenced by 'Arafat to secede. These scenarios were financed by 'Arafat and supervised by al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Nasr Yusuf, and 'Arafat's security bodies. Hamas, however, has foiled these scenarios.

[Mansur] Did Hamas really manage to abort the secession?

[Ghawshah] Yes.

[Mansur] Who are those who tried to secede, and how many are they?

[Ghawshah] We will not reveal their names and numbers now.

[Mansur] How did you discover the secession attempt?

[Ghawshah] From the Hamas figures who lured the movement into signing an agreement with the authority suspending all activity by the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions.

Jihad Leader on Relations Among 'Resistance' Groups

NC1609161495 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 12 Sep 95 p 8

[Interview with Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, by unidentified correspondent in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dr. al-Shaqaqi, what is the nature of the popular base of Palestinian groups in Gaza and Jericho?

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[Al-Shaqaqi] The internal situation in Palestine continues to be an abnormal and extraordinary one in which security issues play a role. The masses cannot freely express their views. Thus an individual may say he supports Fatah whether or not he supports it. However, the same individual cannot state that he is a supporter of the Islamic Jihad organization.

This is because within the occupied territories, it is considered a covert organization. All these aspects have to be taken into consideration. In my opinion, the Fatah organization has an extensive base among the people in the occupied areas. This is because it includes not only the Fatah cadres but also those who endorse an amicable policy. They make up more than two-thirds of those who are not Fatah members but who come under its aegis.

[HAMSHAHRI] This means they are Fatah supporters?

[Al-Shiqaqi] No. They are not, but they endorse the overall policy of a compromise in occupied Palestine. The ranks in the Islamic movement are as follows:

The Hamas organization ranks first among these forces and this is due to its longstanding history and extensive resources.

After Hamas comes the Islamic Jihad organization, which can be considered second among opposition groups or third in view of its influence in the occupied areas. I may add that the history and brilliance of the Islamic Jihad organization is far greater than its membership as it is held in high esteem among the Palestinian people. This is true even in areas where we have limited installations. [passage omitted]

[HAMSHAHRI] Is there no difference between the Zionist regime and the autonomous government as regards their approach to combatants?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Pursuit of the combatants has been intensified. This is because the autonomous government has some influence among the people. It can therefore identify the Hamas and Islamic Jihad members more easily than the Israelis. The Israelis may only recognize 10 or 20 percent of the Hamas or Islamic Jihad cadres in this region. However the autonomous government probably knows 90 percent of them and can track the combatants down easily.

This is why the arrest, disarming, and discovery of military cells continues. This government is playing a very dangerous role in breaking the Palestinian spearhead, which is the main objective of the Zionist enemy.

[HAMSHAHRI] Dr. al-Shaqaqi. My last question is on the coalition of Palestinian groups. We know that these groups have differing ideologies. What is the basis for the solidarity of this coalition?

[Al-Shaqaqi] There is a vast scope for solidarity which comes under the name of "Palestine." We have cast aside all differences in thinking and we have a common stance on basic issues. There is some secular and leftist thinking among those involved in the Palestinian struggle. We do not have any problems when we speak to the secular groups as we do not discuss thought or ideology and our main discussion revolves around Palestine, which is an extensive and multifaceted subject. It is in itself an ideology for all Palestinians, Arabs, and for all Muslims as well.

Thus we can easily meet and converse. Unfortunately however, due to some internal weakness and extensive foreign pressure and a lack of international and regional support, the activities of these groups as a union or a front are rather weak and the groups act individually.

Hawatimah Says Guerrilla Activities To Continue

NC1609143795 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 12 Sep 95 p 8

[Interview with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah by unidentified correspondent in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [HAMSHAHRI] Mr. Hawatimah. Could you please tell us briefly about your perspective on the Gaza- Jericho plan?

[Hawatimah] The Oslo Accord, or the Gaza-Jericho plan as it is sometimes referred to, completely contradicts the PLO's national program. This is because our rightful national program is to end the occupation, remove the settlements from the usurped territories, and ensure the Palestinians' right to decide their destiny and the establishment of an independent Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capitol. This program also stresses the return of the Palestinian refugees who comprise 60 percent of our population. [passage omitted]

[HAMSHAHRI] Mr. Hawatimah, what is your group's position in the autonomous government and what is the nature of your activities in this government?

[Hawatimah] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has a base among the revolutionary people and the intifadah and we carry out our struggle within the coalition of the PLO ranks. When 'Arafat trampled on the decisions approved in the Palestinian national parliament in September 1991, the differences between the DFLP and the PLO began. [passage omitted]

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We have initiated a compound struggle in the autonomous area, the primary axis of which is the struggle for a union against the usurpers and the settlers.

Another axis of this struggle is against the autonomous government, which has ignored the rights of our people and is colluding with the Israeli usurpers within the framework of the Oslo accord. It is trampling on democratic freedoms and human rights and is violating the rights of the toiling impoverished people of our nation. [passage omitted]

[HAMSHAHRI] It now appears that your struggle in the occupied territories is a political one. What is your opinion of the martyrdom-seeking operations of Hamas?

[Hawatimah] This is not true. Our struggle against the usurpers is based on the axes of a popular, political armed struggle and this is the main purpose of the DFLP's operations against the occupation forces.

The operations took place in the region of Nahal 'Oz in the Netsarim colony in the Gaza Strip and an Israeli engineer who specialized in the manufacture of missiles was killed and two other Israeli soldiers were wounded. This is one example.

In the wake of these operations, 'Arafat's government carried out extensive arrests of our combatants and more than 200 leaders and members of our cadres [preceding word in English] were arrested. They were imprisoned for four years.

Thus the DFLP's struggle against the usurpers and settlers continues and is a popular armed political struggle. However our struggle against the autonomous government is more of a popular, political, and a tribal one.

This is because we do not want the plots by Rabin and sinister elements in the autonomous government to pit Palestinians against Palestinians to be successful. Therefore, we say we participate in the martyrdom-seeking guerrilla activities against the occupiers and we encourage such operations.

The usurpers' bloodshed and violence spawns greater animosity which manifests itself in the wrath and fury of the patriotic resistance in various forms. This will continue until the usurpers and settlers are driven out of our homeland.

PLO, West Bankers Reported at Odds Over Refugees

TA2009123595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Sep 95 p 5

[Article by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Sparks Fly Over Who Is a Refugee"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Negotiations in Amman last week on the problem of the displaced persons from the West Bank ended with no progress on who should be defined as "displaced."

But all parties did agree there is a difference between a "displaced person" and a "refugee."

"Refugees" are those who left what is now Israel in 1948 or earlier. Those who left the territories because of the Six Day War are "displaced."

Most of the displaced persons are from the West Bank. But the delegates from Israel, the PLO, Jordan and Egypt disagreed on who should be included and who should not.

Israeli delegates insisted that only those directly affected by the 1967 war be counted; the Arab delegates wanted to include people who left the West Bank before and after the war.

The estimated gap in the figures starts at 200,000 and runs to more than a million.

On the face of it, the problem seems to be just one more of those disputes that puts Israel on one side and Arab states on the other — the Arab states want to push as many Palestinians as possible into the territories; Israel, for obvious reasons, is resisting that.

But this is far from being the complete picture. Not all the Arabs want to flood the West Bank with newcomers — neither the West Bankers themselves nor, surprisingly, the Jordanians.

Pragmatic Arabs realize a dramatic change in the West Bank demography would change its political and social structure drastically, and undermine the relative stability of the area.

The returnee issue may decide the future of the West Bank, and every Palestinian in that area may be affected personally by the way the Oslo agreement on dislocation is resolved.

It is noteworthy that West Bank representatives were all but absent from the PLO delegation. The head of the group was Zuhdi Sa'id, one of Abu-Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir] people in Amman; the other delegates were all "old PLO," with the exception of Dr. Salim Tamari from Bi'r Zayt University.

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Why did Zuhdi not ask for the participation of more conspicuous West Bankers? Why was the head of this delegation not a West Bank personality?

The answer lies not in any Israeli influence, but in the yawning differences between PLO and West Bank perspectives.

Two years ago, there was a conference in Tunis on the Palestinian refugee problem. Hanan 'Ashrawi of Ramallah, the spokeswoman of the old Palestinian delegation, was there.

Her position on the practicalities of the "right of return" was quite clear — returnees must be accepted only at a rate which the West Bank can absorb them and prevent chaos and deterioration in the territories.

'Ashrawi's was not a lone voice. Many West Bank figures supported the idea that returnees should enter in orderly stages with first precedence given to wealthier Palestinians who could make investments, help raise economic standards, and pave the way for the poorer Palestinians to follow.

The PLO does not concur. It is not very concerned about the stability of the existing social and political infrastructures in the West Bank.

The PLO says Palestinians should follow the example of Israel's early years, when all Jewish newcomers were absorbed regardless of criteria, quality or quantity, putting the national interest above all.

In this dispute between West Bank leaders and the PLO, Jordan, as usual, supports the West Bankers' position. The cliche that Jordan wants to "get rid" of as many Palestinians as possible is groundless — after all, Jordan alone absorbed some 200,000 Palestinians expelled from Kuwait and the Gulf.

Jordan is much more interested in the matter of West Bank stability. A turbulent West Bank spells trouble for Jordan, as happened during the intifada. Amman's policy now has a much sharper focus — to establish a clear distinction between the inhabitants of the West Bank and those of the East Bank.

Elections on each bank will decide nationality. Palestinians who vote in the territories will identify themselves with the Palestinian Autonomy, and their Jordanian citizenship will be reconsidered.

Those who have already voted for Jordan's parliament will finally be defined as Jordanians. The PLO will lose all claim to represent them, although that doesn't mean Jordan will stop supporting Palestinian issues.

A correct reading of the whole issue, however, indicates that much of that support will be mere lip-service. Jordan's main interest is to send to the West Bank only those who have close links to the area — those true Palestinians who still feel they are strangers in Jordan.

The Oslo agreement also contradicts the PLO stand of packing the West Bank with returnees. The agreement clearly stipulates that the actual capability of the West Bank to absorb newcomers be the guiding principle.

Nevertheless, this is a sensitive issue and it will continue to be a bone of connection. While the snarling between the PLO and Israel will be in the open, that between the PLO and the West Bank will be behind the scenes.

Dissidents Say Abu-Nidal Behind al-Halabi Killing

MM2109084095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Dissidents Accuse Abu-Nidal of Issuing Orders To Assasinate al-Halabi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH — AL-HAYAH received yesterday a statement signed by the "Revolutionary Council- Correct Line" accusing the Abu-Nidal group of assassinating Shaykh Nizar al-Halabi, who was an official of the al-Ahbash movement in Beirut, on 13 August.

Informed sources have said that the "Correct Line" group indeed exists in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp near Sidon, and that its members broke away from Abu-Nidal recently. The statement, which listed names of people belonging to the Abu-Nidal group who are accused to committing the crime, said: "The new treacherous crime is aimed at confusing the situation on the Lebanese scene and undermining security and stability there in order to embarrass the source of support among the brothers in Syria, which is facing increasing challenges from the hostile forces and their agents, who are using Lebanon as a base, as a result of its national and pan-Arab stances."

The leading committee of our movement, Fatah-Revolutionary Council-Correct Line, which has rejected the deviationist policy pursued by the criminal Abu-Nidal (Sabri al-Banna), pledged to tell the truth to our Palestinian and Arab masses, and exposed his crimes against the sons of our people and nation in order to stop the serious deterioration on our national scene, continues to monitor the activities of that criminal. And today it provides the Palestinian and Lebanese forces with all the information relating to the crime of assassination against Shaykh Nizar al-Halabi: The criminal Abu-Nidal issued his instructions to members of his command in Lebanon, namely Shawqi Sawaftah or Abu-Muhammad (real name)... Munir Ahmad (pseudonym) and Muhammad al-Salwani (real

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name) .. Mahir 'Abdallah (pseudonym). The two entrusted Jihad Abu-al-Amin (pseudonym)... Muhammad Amin al-Safadi (real name), who is in charge of the committee responsible for the vile missions in Lebanon, with the task. He in turn assigned the implementation to a member of the missions committee in Lebanon, namely Tha'ir Muhammad 'Ali, known as Tha'ir Shanar (pseudonym) and Yasir Muhammad Ahmad Abu-Shanar (real name), who carried out the vile crime, which is a new addition to the numerous liquidation operations carried out in Lebanon since 1990 (all names and punctuation as published].

The leadership committee of our Fatah-Revolutionary Council- Correct Line, out of its awareness of the extreme importance of this stage in the history of our cause and the region in general, calls on the honorable and free people of this nation to shoulder their responsibilities for confronting the criminal Abu-Nidal. It also warns the parties colluding with him that they will lose a great deal as a result of this alliance and collusion, whatever their calculations. [passage omitted]

Bulgaria Recognizes Palestinian Passport

JN2009152295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bulgaria announced today that it recognizes the Palestinian passport issued by the National Authority. [passage omitted]

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat-Peres Negotiations Resume in Taba

Peres: Talks 'Ready for Conclusion'

TA2009163395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Upon arriving in Taba for the continuation of his talks with 'Arafat, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the negotiations are ready for conclusion and that there is no need for new proposals. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that Peres hinted that discussions should be accelerated due to the U.S. Congress' timetable. The U.S. Congress should decide on aid to the Palestinians by the end of the month, and its decision will be affected by the conclusion of the negotiations. The foreign minister also noted that an increasing number of people in Israel demand to know the status of the negotiations with the Palestinians, which means that the final stage should be reached. Peres reached Taba a few minutes ago, following long hours of consultations he held in Elat, especially on the Hebron issue.

Palestinian elements claim progress is emerging also with regard to outlining the overall Judaea and Samaria map and the Hebron issue.

Morning Session Ends

NC2009142095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1358 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 20 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli negotiators have ended their morning round of talks which were chaired by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

President 'Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu-Rudaynah told MENA that during the morning session a working team and several committees, with a combined membership of 70 Palestinian officials, carefully studied the new maps submitted by the Israelis which pertain to the redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank and the arrangements for Hebron.

Abu-Rudaynah declined to comment on how the negotiations, now in their fifth day, are going. He only said that they are difficult.

The talks will be resumed this evening.

28 Sep Said Target for Signing Accord

NC2009161395 Paris AFP in English 1553 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Sept 20 (AFP) — Israel and the PLO have set a new target date of September 28 for the signing in Washington of an accord on extending Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank, Israeli officials said Wednesday [20 September].

"It's a target date. If we can meet it, it's fine. But even if we cannot, the most important thing is to conclude the talks," a senior official told AFP, asking not to be named.

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israel's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, meanwhile, held a fifth straight day of negotiations. At the outset, they aimed to have a deal ready for signing in the US capital this Thursday.

Abu-Rudaynah: Tonight's Meeting 'Decisive'

JN2009172895 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our colleague Salah Salamah asked Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, about the Palestinian demands, the Israeli maps which were presented in Taba, and about the expected date for signing a Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Abu-Rudaynah said:

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[Begin Abu-Rudaynah recording] The talks resumed at approximately 1000 today. The meeting between President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and his delegation on one side and Peres and his delegation on the other side lasted four hours. Meanwhile, the redeployment team and experts were holding a separate meeting to discuss the maps which sparked the crisis last night. They completed the meeting 15 minutes ago. The results of the meeting will be presented to the two leaders when they meet in 15 minutes. The committee on redeployment from Hebron, which held a meeting for several hours, will also present the results of the meeting at this evening's meeting. The Israelis' agreement on the idea of redeployment from Hebron has paved the road for the possibility of reaching an agreement. But, so far, no agreement has been reached on the final formula for the redeployment from Hebron.

Regarding the issue of maps, as I told you, the maps committee met for very long hours and the Palestinian delegation registered 45 reservations on the Israeli map, which was presented yesterday and which caused the crisis. We are waiting for the return of the Israelis who asked for time to hold consultations and to respond to the Palestinian side regarding these observations. If they respond to the issues of maps and Hebron in a satisfactory way, tonight's meeting will be decisive and it will define, at least, the fate of this round of talks whether negatively or positively. [end recording]

Abu-Rudaynah Sees 'Long Night of Negotiations'

NC2009183195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1802 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 20 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres resumed this evening their negotiations over the expansion of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

Peres arrived in Taba this evening after a two-hour recess during which he consulted with the other members of the Israeli negotiating delegation. He also spoke by telephone with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

President 'Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu-Rudaynah told MENA that committees of Palestinian and Israeli experts examined the maps pertaining to the Israeli forces' redeployment in the West Bank for many hours. A special committee on Hebron held a similar meeting.

Abu-Rudaynah added that the Palestinian delegation is waiting for the Israeli response to the Palestinian questions and demands in connection with the redeployment of forces in Hebron and the geographical contiguity of Palestinian towns in the West Bank.

Abu-Rudaynah said that a favorable response to the Palestinian demands might pave the way for an agreement. However, he ruled out the likelihood that an agreement can be initialed tonight.

Abu-Rudaynah explained: We have a long night of negotiations ahead of us. Even if an agreement is signed tomorrow, Thursday [21 September], it will take two days to properly phrase what has been agreed upon.

Sources close to the negotiators said that reports about a possible signing of an agreement over the expansion of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank on 25 September are not true because that date coincides with the Hebrew New Year, an important Israeli holiday.

'Crisis Atmosphere' Reported

TA2109054995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night's talks in Taba ended in a crisis atmosphere, and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left the meeting with 'Arafat without saying a word. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the negotiations are slated to resume today, but it is not yet clear at what time. In their discussions of Hebron the two delegations dealt with the Palestinians' request for additional Palestinian policemen and inspectors in the city. Israel has already withdrawn its demand that overall responsibility for Hebron remain in its hands, agreeing to be in charge of the settlers' safety there.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 21 September notes that "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left the latest discussions in Taba telling reporters only that the talks will resume at 1000 o'clock." "Palestinian officials said an agreement was being delayed over the issue of Hebron and the security maps detailing how much of the West Bank will be under Palestinian control."]

Talks End; No Agreement Reached

NC2109063795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 21 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian negotiators headed by President Yasir 'Arafat and the Israelis headed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres ended another round of negotiations at dawn today. The talks lasted eight hours without reaching agreement on a redeployment in Hebron or the maps relating to deployment in the West Bank.

The two sides agreed to meet again at 1000 today. The Israeli foreign minister refused to answer correspondents' questions. None of the Palestinian officials made

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any statements on the progress that might have been made.

Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, spokesman for President 'Arafat, told MENA that the subjects of Hebron and the security arrangements dominated this long session and that the negotiators reached no solutions on these two issues.

Abu-Rudaynah said the idea of redeployment is accompanied by a formula over which understanding should be reached to find a solution. The negotiators have not yet reached this stage.

He noted that the subject of the maps dealing with the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank and the linking of the Palestinian towns have not been finalized in this session.

The Palestinian official added that the Israeli negotiators asked for time before responding to Palestinian demands regarding the maps. But the Israelis have not answered yet. He clarified that during the current negotiations the two sides have not yet set a time for initialing the agreement to expand self-rule.

Abu-Rudaynah on Points of Disagreement

JN2109072795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0514 GMT 21 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by Fathi al-Barqawi in the studio; place not given; from the "New Day" news feature — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Barqawi] Good morning, brother Nabil.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Good morning brother Fathi.

[Al-Barqawi] In today's issue, the newspaper AL-QUDS banner headline reads: Abu-Rudaynah—Progress; Proposed Solutions Closer to Palestinian Demands. Can you comment?

[Abu-Rudaynah] The fact is that the negotiations continued throughout last night and during the early hours of today. However, no agreement was reached yet on Hebron despite Israel's recognition of the concept of redeployment in the city. No agreement has been reached yet on the detailed formula which will be translated to implement this concept. No agreement has been reached on this subject, as I told you.

Another issue which has not been solved yet is the maps issue. Israel has accepted the principle of interconnection among Palestinian cities. The Palestinian side has rejected the cantons concept and the isolation of cities. The Palestinian side yesterday presented a draft map defining this interconnection and this comprehensive concept. However, the Israelis have not yet given an answer to this proposal. Yesterday, the Palestinians presented more than 35 observations on the Israeli draft and presented a Palestinian draft defining this interconnection.

The Israeli side asked for time to hold consultations. The committee has not met yet. The committee is expected to meet at 1000 today to resume negotiations on these issues.

[Al-Barqawi] Apparently the Israeli tactics include a maneuver on Hebron as a prelude to beginning talks on a final settlement on Jerusalem next May. This means that we will give you control of Hebron now so that you will concede Jerusalem in exchange. Can the Israeli tactics reach this point? [pause] Brother Nabil, are you there?

[Abu-Rudaynah] I could not hear the question, there have been breaks.

[Al-Barqawi] I repeat, it seems there is an Israeli maneuver in preparation for talks next May on the final settlement on Jerusalem. This maneuver begins from Hebron now.

[Abu-Rudaynah] In fact we cannot link the issues of Jerusalem and Hebron. Intensive, complicated, and prolonged talks are going on now on the transfer of power in the West Bank to the Palestinian National Authority. Israel is trying to stall and delay but as I told you, intensive, complicated, and prolonged talks are taking place. We have gone a long way, but issues have not reached the stage of signing an agreement. The outstanding issues remain: Hebron and the map which must define cities to be transferred to the National Authority in terms of their communications lines and links. The talks lasted until the early hours of today and the negotiators are expected to return at 1000, that is, shortly. A large part has been covered but there are important issues for which a solution has not been found. We hope negotiations will continue today to reach agreement. Issues have not reached the stage of signing the agreement.

[Al-Barqawi] Yesterday, I heard you telling a foreign radio that there are numerous issues that have not yet been solved.

[Abu-Rudaynah] There are many details for which a solution has not been reached. However, I told you yesterday that by accepting the principle of redeployment in Hebron, the road is now open to reach a formula on Hebron. By accepting the Palestinian principle of interconnection among towns and of the rejection of the cantons theory, the road is now open to continue negotiations. However, yesterday's negotiations, which continued for

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many hours showed that there are minor details which have to be agreed on. No agreement reached yet. There are proposals and counterproposals. Talks will resume today and we will see whether or not we can reach agreement in this round.

[Al-Barqawi] A security cordon was imposed on Gaza, and Nabulus yesterday witnessed clashes with the Israeli occupation army in which two were martyred and others injured. Will this affect the talks?

[Abu-Rudaynah] First of all the closure of Gaza is a method the Israelis have often resorted to. This in fact prompted the Palestinian negotiator to reject the Israeli draft map concerning cities in the West Bank. We consider the policy of closure to be harmful, that it will not benefit the peace process, that it should not be repeated in the West Bank. We hold the Israeli Government and army responsible for the life of the citizens. They should not harm people's lives and property.

[Al-Barqawi] Thank you, Brother Nabil.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Thank you.

Abu-Rudaynah Rules Out Initialing Agreement

NC2109111795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1044 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Taba, 21 Sep (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on expanding Palestinian self-rule resumed in Taba this morning.

Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, stated that the objective of today's meeting is to finalize discussion of some issues that are still points of conflict between the two sides, particularly the issues of Hebron and the redeployment of Israeli forces outside the Palestinian villages and towns.

Abu-Rudaynah, in a statement to MENA, said that during the last round, which went on until dawn today, progress was made toward finding a solution to the Hebron issue. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian president's adviser, in his statements, ruled out initialing the agreement on expanding the scope of Palestinian self- rule during this round, which will go on until tomorrow at the latest, unless the Israeli side presents new ideas and plans to overcome the obstacles before these negotiations today.

Abu-Rudaynah did not rule out a new round of negotiations at the end of next week after the Jewish festivities if no agreement is reached between the two sides during this round.

He said the Palestinian side is informing the Egyptian and U.S. leaderships of developments in the negotiations and obstacles they are facing as soon as they learn of them and is asking for intervention to solve these problems.

Talks Expected To Continue for Another Week

NC2009211495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2102 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 20 Sep (MENA)—A Palestinian source close to the Taba talks said this evening that negotiations with the Israeli side are expected to continue for another week before agreement is reached on all contentious issues. The signing might take place on 27 or 28 September, he said.

Main Points of Oslo B Agreement Published

TA2009144095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
20 Sep 95 pp 10, 11

["First disclosure" of "main points" of the Oslo B interim agreement between Israel and the Palestinians being discussed in Taba, reported by 'Oded Granot; Granot's parenthetical notations published in boldface]

[FBIS Translated Text] As part of the peace process begun in the Madrid conference in October 1991, the Israeli Government and the PLO, the representative of the Palestinian people, reaffirm their resolute decision to put an end to the decades-long conflict and to coexist in peace...and their recognition of the political and legitimate rights of each side and their wish to attain a comprehensive permanent and just peace...recognize the fact that the peace process is irreversible and that the purpose of the Israeli- Palestinian negotiations is to establish a Palestinian self-rule authority for the interim period; namely, an elected council and an elected ra'is **(the document uses the Arabic word ra'is, which may be translated both as president and chairman)** for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for the interim period, which will not exceed five years from the day the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed on 4 May 1994, which will lead to a permanent arrangement based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Both sides reaffirm their understanding that the self-government arrangements for the interim period included in this agreement are an integral part of the entire peace process and that the negotiations on the permanent arrangement, which will begin no later than 4 May 1996, will lead to the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Both sides agree that the elections of the Palestinian council and the ra'is will be a preliminary and significant interim step toward the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and its just demands and will provide a democratic basis for the establishment of Palestinian institutions.

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Both sides reaffirm their mutual commitment to take immediate, efficient, and effective action against terror activities or threats, violence, and incitement by either Palestinians or Israelis.

Security Appendix

(The security appendix, perhaps the most problematic in the agreement, deals with the transfer of powers from the Israeli authorities to the elected Palestinian council and defines the areas where the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment will be effected. These include seven cities — Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron — as well as some 400 villages and towns.

The stumbling block which caused last night's crisis in the talks: the Israeli maps demarcating the boundaries of the areas in the West Bank that the IDF plans to evacuate. 'Arafat saw them last night for the first time and stormed out of the room. The argument over the IDF redeployment in Hebron and the security of the settlers has not been settled either.)

The first stage of the IDF redeployment includes populated areas in the West Bank: cities, villages, refugee camps, etc., as detailed in the security appendix, and it will be completed 22 days before the elections to the Palestinian council.

(The Palestinians demanded that the document state that the redeployment will be irreversible and that Israel will not deploy forces there again.)

The rest of the redeployment will be effected gradually after the establishment of the council, and will be completed within 18 months from the day the council is established. The Palestinian Police will deploy and be responsible for public order and internal security among the Palestinians.

Israel will continue to bear responsibility for external security, as well as for the overall security of the Israelis.

Upon the signing of the agreement, an Israeli-Palestinian cooperation and coordination mechanism on security issues will be formed. It will be headed by a joint committee for coordination and cooperation which will meet on a biweekly basis. Two regional security committees (in Gaza and the West Bank) will be subordinate to it. All these bodies will determine their modus operandi on their own. The regional coordination offices will be informed about any development in the field which might affect one of the sides, such as terror actions, blocking of roads, hospitalization of Israelis in Palestinian hospitals (and vice versa). The same offices will also be responsible for the joint patrols.

(Disagreements emerged over the number of Palestinian policemen. The policemen will be recruited from three groups: inhabitants of the territories, bearers of Jordanian passports, and bearers of Palestinian identification documents issued by Egypt. Policemen recruited overseas will be allowed to bring along their wives and children.)

The list of recruits must obtain the approval of both sides before they are appointed to their jobs. Among policemen who are already discharging such duties, the employment of anybody convicted of a serious crime, and of those who prove to have been involved in terrorist activities after their recruitment, will be terminated. Their weapons and police badges will be impounded. **(There is disagreement about the weapons to be issued to the policemen. The Palestinians want some 200 machine guns and armored vehicles.)**

While in the cities responsibility for security will lie with the Palestinians alone, Israel proposes that in the villages and small towns the Palestinian Police see to law and order among the Palestinians, while the Israeli forces defend Israeli citizens from terrorist actions. The Palestinian Authority [PA] will be in charge of security in the Jewish holy sites, but a motorized unit (a type of joint patrol) will operate nearby. Israel also wants plainclothes Israeli policemen to be present in those places.

As for the roads: Israel will provide a safe passage through its territory between both parts of the PA at least 10 hours a day. At the same time, Israel retains the right to prevent free passage from anybody abusing this right. Those not allowed to enter Israel will be transported in police-escorted buses escorted twice a week.

Israeli vehicles driving in the West Bank will be stopped only for documentation checks, and only by a joint patrol. On other roads, the Palestinian Police will be allowed to stop Israeli cars for identification only. The Palestinians will not be allowed to stop or incarcerate Israelis under any circumstances whatsoever, but they will be allowed to detain Israelis who violate the law, while seeing to their safety until the arrival of the joint patrol.

Legal Appendix

(The legal appendix deals with the criminal and civilian jurisdiction of the courts in the areas to be handed over to the Palestinians. The most sensitive issue, which transpired in the wake of the summary trials conducted by the PA in Jericho of Palestinians sought by Israel, is the extradition of suspects to Israel. Israeli jurists say the relevant clause in the legal appendix of the Gaza-Jericho agreement is

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good and unequivocal, and that if the PA evades its implementation, that is a political rather than a legal problem.)

The Palestinian Council's criminal jurisdiction will apply to any offense committed by Palestinians and/or non-Israelis in all areas of the PA, excluding settlements, army bases, and Area C. It will also apply to offenses involving Palestinians and their visitors outside the PA's boundaries, excluding issues pertaining to Israel's security, as well as to offenses committed by Israelis doing continuing business within the boundaries of the PA, including Israeli-owned firms. Israel retains the right to arrest suspects who commit offenses cited in the Israeli penal code within the boundaries of the PA when the offender is an Israeli.

In the event of an offense within the boundaries of the PA against Israel or Israelis, the Palestinian Council will inform Israel about the outcome of the investigation and the legal proceedings. In addition to that, Israel retains its criminal jurisdiction with regard to offenses committed within the boundaries of the PA against Israel or Israelis. Tourists who commit offenses within the boundaries of the PA will be detained by the Palestinians until the arrival of the Israeli forces, who will deal with them from that point onward.

The Palestinian Council will be entitled to take all necessary measures about Israeli cars or Israeli property if these are used to commit a crime or pose an immediate danger to the public's security or health. In that event, the PA will notify the Israeli authorities at once.

Israel demands that the PA hand over to it without any delay any offender suspected of having committed an offense which falls within Israel's exclusive jurisdiction. For its part, Israel proposes to extradite to the Palestinians any non-Israeli charged with an offense which falls within the Palestinian Council's jurisdiction, on condition that it is not a security-related offense. Both sides will prevent people sought by the other side from leaving their territory.

Testimony from an Israeli about a case within the PA's jurisdiction will be collected by an Israeli policeman accompanied by a Palestinian policeman, and vice versa: a Palestinian policeman accompanied by an Israeli colleague will collect the testimony of a non-Israeli witness in the PA about an Israeli criminal case. In special cases, an escort of the opposite side will not be required.

The Palestinians are entitled to request the extradition of wanted non-Israelis, while Israel is entitled to request the extradition of an offender encountered within the boundaries of the PA. The extradition request must include a court-issued arrest warrant. A person facing a death sentence will not be extradited under any circumstances, unless the side requesting the extradition pledges not to sentence him to death.

Civilian Appendix

The civilian appendix defines the various powers that will be transferred to the PA and the way in which they will be transferred. A joint Israeli-Palestinian coordination and cooperation committee will decide on civilian issues pertaining to both sides.

(Electricity supply is one of the main stumbling blocks delaying the signing of the agreement in Taba, over which the energy minister walked out from the negotiating table several times. The disagreement revolves around the Palestinian demand to get control of the high-voltage system which serves both Arab towns and Israeli settlements. Israel is not prepared to give them control over it, but proposes to discuss the establishment of a joint firm by the Israel Electric Corporation and the Palestinian energy authority.

(Another problematic issue, which was settled to Israel's satisfaction, is water. The Palestinians initially demanded an additional 130 million cubic meters, but they will have to make do with 28 million only. Israel sought and got the Palestinians' consent to monitor jointly the use of water sources in the West Bank to prevent harming the aquifer.)

In the area of agriculture, the Palestinians will receive very broad powers, including the authority to issue licenses and to oversee the marketing of agricultural products (including imports and exports), veterinary services, irrigation, etc. **(After agreement was reached on this clause, the Palestinians demanded to be handed over two agricultural farms that were not included in the original agreement: an experimental farm near Janin and the Khudayri farm near Tulkarm.)**

— Archaeology: The authority to issue licenses as well as to oversee the preservation, management, and inspection of archaeological sites is being transferred to the PA. **(The Palestinians initially demanded the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Dayan Collection in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, but realized such a demand had no chance. The clause dealing with agriculture includes a promise by the Palestinians to see to the preservation of sites dear to Jewish tradition which will remain within the boundaries of the PA.)**

Other areas included in the civilian appendix:

— Banking and finances: In effect, the Palestinian monetary authority will inherit the functions of the

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Bank of Israel in the territories. The Bank of Israel will provide its cooperation and assistance, among other things, by providing it with information about banking activities in the territories until the transfer of powers takes place.

— Civil Administration workers: The PA will continue to employ these workers.

— Trade and industry: Both sides promise that the establishment and operation of industrial plants in the West Bank and Gaza will be done in such a way as not to harm the security of the other side or the environment. The powers of the Palestinians in this area are subject to security restrictions described in the interim agreement's security appendix.

— Employment: Applications by Palestinians to work in Israel or in the settlements will be filed via the PA, which undertakes to provide the information necessary for their approval. For its part, Israel will ensure the rights of Palestinian laborers employed in its territory or in the settlements.

— Gas, oil, and fuel: The powers in this area do not just apply to the authority to issue licenses and to the inspection and control of the relevant installations (gas stations, terminals, and infrastructure), but also to the formulation and implementation of an independent policy in this area, as well as the dissemination, distribution, sale, storage, supply, and importation and exportation of the relevant products.

— Land and real estate: For the most part, the Palestinians will be in charge of state land, absentee land, and real estate. Decisions about some of these assets will be made at a later stage.

The agreement covers all areas of administration: health, insurance, internal affairs, labor issues, land registration, judicial administration, local government, nature reserves, parks, regional and industrial planning, population registry and identification, postal services, public works and construction, quarries, minerals, land mining, religious affairs, social welfare, statistics, telecommunications, tourism, transportation, treasury, water, and sewage.

Economic Appendix

Mutual tax exemptions will go into effect as soon as the IDF redeployment is completed; namely, no later than 22 days before the Palestinian elections. At the same time, Israel is prepared to take the PA's needs into consideration and in the two months after the signing of the agreement transfer to it 50 percent of the tax revenues on goods shipped to the West Bank and on fuel purchased by the Palestinians for the West Bank, as well as 100 percent of the tax revenues collected between the last transfer and the aforementioned date. Israel will also transfer to the PA 15 million shekels as an advance payment on the surplus budget of the Civil Administration, and 12 million shekels to cover the expenses of the eight powers which were handed over to the PA as of 1 September 1995. Israel will deduct 3 percent from each transfer of import taxes and other indirect taxes to cover collection expenses.

Elections Appendix

Pursuant to Chapter 3 of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] and in accordance with the stipulations in this appendix, direct, free, and general elections to the council and the job of ra'is will be held simultaneously.

The right to vote will be general, regardless of gender, race, religion, opinion, social background, education, or status. Every eligible voter will be entitled to register. In order to enter the voter registry, eligible voters must be Palestinian, over the age of 17, reside in the voting area where they are registered, and appear in the population registry of the PA or the Israeli authorities.

The election process will be open to international supervision, in accordance with accepted international norms. A certain number of Palestinians in Jerusalem will vote in post offices in Jerusalem.

— The elections will be held as soon as possible after the IDF redeployment.

— The council and the ra'is will be elected directly and simultaneously by the Palestinian people in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza for an interim period that will not exceed five years from the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement on 4 May 1994. The council, in its executive role, will be responsible for the operation of the offices, services, and departments that will be handed over to it and will decide on its modus operandi and decisionmaking process.

A committee that will serve as an executive authority **(similar to the job of a government)** will be set up within the council. The ra'is will be an ex officio member of the executive authority. All other members of the executive authority will be members of the council. They will be chosen by the ra'is, who will submit them to the council for approval.

The ra'is will be entitled to appoint several members who will not be members of the council — these will not exceed 20 percent of the total number of members of the executive authority — to jobs in the executive authority. These members will not be allowed to vote in the council's sessions.

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Members of the executive authority not elected to the council must have a residence address within the boundaries of the PA.

The president of the council will also be the president of the executive authority and will assign portfolios to members of the executive authority.

The powers and jurisdiction of the executive authority: The council will have legislative and executive powers. The executive powers will apply to all the issues within its boundaries according to the agreement, including the power to formulate and conduct a Palestinian policy and responsibility for its implementation.

According to the DOP, the council will have no powers or responsibility over foreign relations, including the establishment of embassies, consulates, or any other type of foreign diplomatic legations abroad, or to permit their establishment in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip.

At the same time, the PLO will be entitled to conduct negotiations and sign agreements with countries or international bodies on behalf of the council, such as: economic accords; agreements with donor countries; agreements on the execution of development projects in the region; as well as cultural, scientific, and educational agreements.

Within its boundaries, the council will have an independent judicial system of Palestinian courts and tribunals.

Cooperation Appendix

Both sides seek to cooperate in a bid to bring about a full reconciliation and the implementation of the permanent agreement on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The main areas of cooperation planed are: preservation of the environment, economy, science and technology, culture, and education. This cooperation will consist of joint economic enterprises, transfer of agricultural know-how, development and implementation of methods for the handling of toxic and dangerous materials, and the development of environmental-friendly energy sources. A permanent cooperation committee will be established to that end, which will decide on its working procedures on its own.

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Algeria

Envoy Briefs Zeroual on Saddam's Election Plans

LD2009153595 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of state, Liamine Zeroual, today received the Iraqi minister of trade, Muhammad Mahdi Salih. The meeting was attended by Mihoub Mihoubi, the diplomatic counsellor and official spokesman for the head of state's office, and the Iraqi ambassador in Algiers.

After the meeting, the Iraqi envoy made the following statement:

[Begin Salih recording] I have come as an envoy of President Saddam Husayn to his brother President Zeroual to discuss brotherly Algeria's continued support for Iraq in the efforts to lift the despotic economic siege imposed on the Iraqi people for over five years, particularly since Iraq has fulfilled all the commitments imposed on it on the basis of UN Resolution 687. We also discussed issues concerning improving and developing relations between Iraq and Arab countries, and Algeria's stance on this issue and improving inter-Arab relations.

I have also briefed President Zeroual on the steps taken by the leader president [Saddam Husayn] and the Iraqi leadership concerning the referendum which will be held on 15 October on the election of President Saddam Husayn as president of the republic, measures taken and the invitations extended to 10,000 people from abroad to visit Iraq and witness, monitor, and follow up the process.

We have come to thank brother President Zeroual for the Algerian government and people's support for Iraq's steadfastness, and for supporting Iraq in areas where the brotherly Algerian people are able to help the Iraqi people under these difficult circumstances. [end recording]

Further on Zeroual-Envoy Meeting

JN2009152695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1258 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers, 20 Sep (INA)—Algerian President Liamine Zeroual today received Muhammad Mahdi Salih, personal envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and Iraqi minister of trade.

The president's personal envoy relayed an oral message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother the Algerian president on the latest developments in the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council, particularly with regard to Iraq's cooperation with the UN Special Commission. The message also addresses the prospects of promoting and enhancing the fraternal bilateral ties, inter-Arab ties, and Iraq's position on the efforts to heal Arab rifts in the Arab nation's interest.

The minister of trade also conveyed the greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother the Algerian president as well as his wishes of continued progress and prosperity for the Algerian people.

For his part, the Algerian president reiterated that Algeria will continue to back and support the Iraqi people, and to work tirelessly to bring about a revocation of the blockade clamped on them as well as an improvement in the fraternal bilateral ties.

The Algerian president asked Muhammad Mahdi Salih to relay his greetings to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn as well as his wishes of continued progress and prosperity for the Iraqi people.

The meeting was attended by Mihoub Mihoubi, adviser at the Algerian Presidential Office, and 'Abd-al-Karim Mahmud al-Mulla, Iraqi ambassador to Algeria.

Sifi: Only Elections Can Solve Political Crisis

LD2109085795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi will arrive in Naama Province later today to take part in festivities commemorating the [1882] uprising of Shaykh Bouamama and to inspect social and educational installations in the governorates.

Mokdad Sifi also toured Al-Bayadh Province where he inspected a number of social and economic installations. He concluded his tour to the province with a meeting with leading officials and civic dignitaries in the province. The meeting was an opportunity for the head of government to examine projects planned and/or realized in this province.

The prime minister also seized the opportunity to urge the residents of Al-Bayadh to vote in large numbers in the forthcoming presidential elections. He said that the people's participation in the elections is the only way to take the country out of its current crisis and that the government is not able to overcome all problems:

[Begin Sifi recording] These elections are very important; they are a strategic and important exercise. It is the right of every citizen to vote and it is also the duty of every citizen. Everyone should take part in the elections. As far as I am concerned as head of the government and chairman of the governmental committee in charge of

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preparing for these elections, I would like to see citizens making up their minds and their choices freely. His excellency the president said on 31 October 1991, when he decided that the elections must take place before the end of this year, that we must allow the people to make their choice. The people must be allowed to be the referee and the judge who can clean up this mess. The government or the other authorities cannot, in these circumstances...[pauses] I am saying here that we, the government, cannot resolve the crisis facing this country; only the people can resolve it. [end recording]

Redha Malek on Motivations for Seeking Presidency

MM2009130795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Sep 95 p5

[Interview with Redha Malek, president of the [Algerian] Republican Alliance Party, by Nadya Mahdid in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mahdid] Why is Redha Malek nominating himself for the presidential elections?

[Malek] The elections are a manifestation of democratic practice and a source of legitimacy for every political system. With regard to Algeria, these elections do not only constitute a source of legitimacy but also a popular demand that enables the people to participate in decision-making through the person and program they choose. We have nominated ourselves for the coming elections out of our belief in the democratic course of government. Furthermore, this action might contribute to the resolution of the crisis which Algeria has been witnessing for three years, or at least would lessen its intensity.

The current situation in our country demands consultation with the people and legitimate institutions that reflect the people's will and their aspirations. The presidency of the republic is one of the most important institutions which cannot continue to operate outside the will of the people. The country's constitution and covenants stipulated this. We can provide a definitive program capable of resolving the current problems and meet the wishes of all those who express confidence in us.

[Mahdid] But why did you nominate yourself as an independent when you are the president of a political party?

[Malek] We have put forward our candidacy for the coming presidential elections as an independent. But this does not conflict with our presidency of a political party from either the legal or the practical aspect. Furthermore, our party is an all- embracing political movement that was founded to put forward ideas and programs that would insure the emergence of the country from its present crisis and place it on the road leading to modernization, development, stability, and peace, and not to express the views of any particular section of society to the exclusion of another.

Our nomination as a national figure was not by accident nor was it a unilateral action. It stems from our desire to attain power as much as it stems from our desire to respond to the wishes of the numerous representatives of the various social factions on all levels, who recognize our experience and our knowledge of the problems at hand and see in us great opportunities for finding the right way out of the choking crisis in which Algeria has been embroiled.

My nominating myself as a national candidate provides a proof of our strong will and good intentions, and that our sole concern is to serve Algeria's interests, its glory, and its advancement and not to give prominence to any specific partisan view over other views or any specific political proposition over other propositions. It is an endeavor aimed at consolidating the ranks of all Algerians and enabling them to coexist in harmony, despite the differences of their opinions and ideas.

[Mahdid] Do you think you have a big chance of securing the necessary number [75,000] required for nomination in the elections?

[Malek] It is not easy to collect such a large number of signatures, particularly in the present conditions in the country which are characterized by the deterioration of the state of security, let alone the other social and administrative problems. However, it is not an impossible task, and seems to be moving along the right course due to the citizens' response to us throughout the various regions of the country and the open support for our program. We believe that our efforts will be crowned with success, because efforts are being exerted to enlighten all the citizens about the importance of the electoral operation and the extent of its ability to alleviate the country's problems, and the role it can play in untangling the threads of this dilemma and lead our people to the shores of safety. The results of this work have already begun to show and crystallize in the field.

[Mahdid] What are the general principles on which your plan is founded?

[Malek] The general principles of our plan for society lie in the halting of the machine of devastation and terrorism which has been devouring the sons of Algeria and the creation of a favorable ground for the coexistence of the Algerians away from violence and the resort to force for resolving political and social problems, namely, to lay down genuine democratic rules within

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which the discussion of views, forgiveness and the assumption of power constitute the basis.

It is also based on: legitimacy that stems from the will of the people to exercise power; the guarantee that the institutions are constitutional, legitimate and respected; the restoration of the state's prestige; and respect for the law and its sovereignty over all, placing it above everyone and not under anyone.

We also aspire to keeping the ghost of unemployment away, to restore dignity to the citizens by resolving their economic and social problems, to establish social justice, to preserve the citizens' purchasing power, to provide homes, work, education and medicine for every Algerian man and women, and to insure respect for them abroad by restoring to the Algerians the respect of other countries.

[Mahdid] Do you think you have a great chance for winning the presidency of the Algerian state despite the aversion shown by the Algerian voters to all the political personalities that existed in the system since its establishment?

[Malek] Anyone who believes that the Algerian people are immature and that they pass uninstitutional and illogical judgements against all sides without any real justification will be mistaken. For the Algerian citizens denounce bad things and reject mismanagement, bribery, nepotism, and the abuse of the law. They also reject all flaws and all covert practices that might exist in the methods of work or in the actions of responsible officials at all levels. The Algerian elector detests those who do not live up to his expectations of them as well as those who spread corruption in all the positions they occupy.

[Mahdid] Will the new elected president, in your opinion, enjoy his powers as a president of a republic or will he remain under the authority of the military establishment?

[Malek] The call for presidential elections ipse facto constitutes a method for bestowing legitimacy on the presidential institution, and consequently endows the president of the republic with all the powers vested in him by the law. These powers are stated clearly in the country's constitution. For the president is the first judge in the country He is also the commander of the armed forces . The military establishment is also constitutional and its powers are clearly stated in the constitution. Any overlapping between the powers, any detraction from the powers of the president of the republic, or the replacement of the military establishment would not serve the country nor democracy nor either of the two institutions [the presidency and the military] themselves.

[Mahdid] Should the incumbent president Liamine Zeroual choose to nominate himself for the presidential elections as a representative of the military establishment, do you think that you will continue to stand a chance of winning?

[Malek] Every candidate in the presidential elections is assumed not to represent any of the institutions of the state, be they military or civilian. What concerns us, however, is that the presidential elections should be honest and democratic irrespective of who the candidate is. The final word rests with the people.

If we were to notice any bias on the part of the state institutions and bodies in favor of any particular candidate, we would not keep quiet about this and would adopt a clear and public position toward it, because this would affect the credibility and aims of the election operation and the democratic course and deepen the crisis and increase the intensity of the problems.

As to our chances of success, it is difficult to predict at present. Yet, we believe that they will continue to exist.

[Mahdid] What comment would you make about the calls being issued by parties of the "National Contract" and other well-known political figures for a boycott of the elections?

[Malek] Recourse to the holding of presidential elections has come as a result of the failure of the various attempts at dialogue with all the political formations in the country, including the "[National] Salvation Front," which is a proscribed party. The insistence of the proscribed party's members on not condemning terrorism, not even just verbally, on not calling for an end to the killing of the sons of Algeria, the sabotaging of the institutions and the destruction of the national economy, and the insistence of the group known as "The National Contract" on the reaching of a solution through negotiations with all the parties including the proscribed party, as a precondition even if it did not denounce terrorism, have contributed to closing all the doors, leaving nothing other than recourse to the judgement of the people through the organization of presidential elections. All that anyone who claims to represent the people need to do is accept the verdict of the people. Then we will have an elected presidential institution capable of finding adequate solutions for this problem.

[Mahdid] Would not the absence of many political sides from the presidential elections rob the elections of their credibility?

[Malek] If the Algerian people accept these elections, the elections will derive their credibility from this acceptance. Credibility will also be lost if these sides were kept out or were subjected to pressures to force

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them not to participate in the elections. But I believe that nothing of the sort has happened and every side is free to adopt the attitude which suits it.

As far as we are concerned, we feel that the people have shown a response to our nomination. Furthermore, the people have a great desire for change as well as a great desire for the condemnation of terrorism in addition to a will for seeking new alternatives for the restoration of the political climate. All this arouses hopes and belief that the country's problems are on the way toward being resolved.

[Mahdid] Do not you think that behind the acts of violence Algeria has been witnessing in recent days lie sides other than those traditionally known?

[Malek] The quarters that are perpetrating acts of terrorism and violence in Algeria are the same elements that wanted to use our Islamic religion as a pretext for the killing of people and the destruction of the country's capabilities as a means to getting to power alone without the participation of any others in it.

These groups want to involve Algerian society in practices that are foreign to it and deviate from its Islamic religion which this society has safeguarded for 14 centuries. These groups try to dominate the people through terrorism and intimidation and the violation of the sanctities of the Algerian families. They are the groups that continued to operate under the banners or in the name of the proscribed party [The National Salvation Front].

[Mahdid] Do you think a political climate under which scores of citizens are daily killed or injured demand the holding of elections?

[Malek] As I have already said, recourse to the elections was dictated by the complexity of the political situation and the rigidity of the stands adopted by some quarters which resorted to all means, including acts of murder and sabotage, to seize power for themselves alone and to hold sway over the lives of the Algerians and enslave them in accordance with religious fatwas that have nothing to do with our true Islamic religion, and consequently nothing remained to be done other than to seek the people's arbitration and resolve the question of the legitimacy of rule.

The Algerian people are peaceful and are innocent of all that is happening. The same applies to the state institutions and the elements of the security forces, who are confronting acts of the total destruction of the country's capabilities and the killing of the people without any discrimination between a child, a woman, an aged person, an educated person, a civilian or a military man.

The fact that elections were not organized has not stopped this barbaric offensive that has afflicted Algeria. Perhaps the organization and success of the elections might lead to the solution of many of the problems and the alleviation of the current crisis, provided that these elections are held in an honest and free climate, a thing on which we are betting.

[Mahdid] Were you offered guarantees to prompt you to nominate yourself for these elections?

[Malek] Our only guarantee is our confidence in the Algerian people and our faith in its love of the homeland as well as our confidence in the interest of the people and their ability to choose those more capable of contributing to saving the country from its present ordeal. As to the guarantees given to us by the public authority, it is that the elections shall be honest and above board and that the state's institutions and departments shall maintain neutrality.

By participating in these elections, we do not mean to bargain or secure guarantees in advance, because the only guarantor in matters of elections are the people. Our objective is to contribute, with all the energy we have, to put Algeria on the road to modernization, development, and stability, and to bring it to the shore of safety.

[Mahdid] Do you think that persistence with the policy of eradication toward the armed groups will serve the basic and sublime interests of the Algerian nation?

[Malek] The state and its structures were created to protect the people and their interests and safeguard the entity of the state itself. They cannot show tolerance [Arabic: Tasamuh] to anyone who harms the interests and constituents of society. What is happening in Algeria is the domination of armed groups and their perpetration of abominable crimes against the sons of the people, their killing of the innocent, and the blowing up of the country's resources.

It is part of the state's duty to enforce the law and punish the criminals. For it is illogical for the state's institutions to keep quiet about those who commit crimes without punishing them, otherwise the constituents of the state themselves will no longer exist. The sublime interests of the Algerian nation lie in its protection from those criminals who have begun to threaten the very existence of the nation and who constitute a threat to every living and vital thing in it.

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Security Law for Public Companies Studied

95AF0175A Algiers LA TRIBUNE in French 29 Aug 95 pp 1, 2

[Article by Abdelkrim Ghezali: "Henceforth Public Companies Will Have a Legal Tool To Organize Their Own Self-Defense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *The National Transition Council [CNT] is studying a draft law on the protection of the public patrimony.*

Yesterday, CNT members studied the draft law pertaining to the protection of the public patrimony and the security of persons helping to manage and develop it.

In presenting reasons for the government's draft, it is stated that in this law, "the goal of security is formulated and indications are presented regarding the conditions to be implemented in order to take passive and active measures to protect companies from attacks, to foil attacks at best or at least reduce their effects." The new feature of this draft law lies in the concept of "internal security" at the company and the direct and personal responsibility "of the head of the company" in defending and protecting the "public asset" he manages.

On this subject, the government's introductory document says: "The draft law is innovative in that this responsibility rests with the head of the company, an element that encourages implementing and properly paying for it. Its enforcement area is also set out; until now, this aspect had been lacking."

Under the title "General Provisions," Article 2 of the draft law defines the public patrimony as the infrastructures, buildings, equipment, and means (...); and the movable and real estate public assets that are used as part of political, economic, administrative, social, cultural, socioeducational, sports, or religious activities.

In its amendment, the commission deleted the term "political" "out of a concern for clarity," whereas speakers at the plenary session wondered what the terms "political" and "religious" meant in context.

Under the terms of this draft law, the head of a company that is part of the public patrimony has wide latitude to develop internal regulations and a security plan consisting of a risk and threat assessment as well as the measures and means to deal with risks and threats. However, these preventive, preservative, and defensive measures should be adapted to the size of the company, to how sensitive it is, and to its activity's impact on the political, economic, and social environment.

A company head who exercises hierarchical power over all company security staff can appeal to agencies outside his company as well as bring in the responsible hierarchical and administrative authorities. However, the draft law stipulates that protecting the public patrimony remains in the area of competence and under the general responsibility of public security forces. The latter can also be called upon by companies to assist in the area of internal security.

Internal security staff at public companies are authorized, under the terms of this draft law, to carry and use firearms. As such, they bear the presumption of legitimate defense for all acts carried out in order to repel aggression. The second paragraph of Article 18 even authorizes them to "detain" those who have committed the act or suspicious individuals provided they immediately remand them to the area's security forces. Zoubida Assoule, who criticized and amended the form and content of almost all the draft law's articles, believes that the term "detain" applies to things and not people; the term "arrest" is more appropriate. However, she noted a flaw in this clause: It doe not confer on the company head or the security agent the power that the OPJ (the judicial police officer) or the APJ (the judicial police agent) has, and they are the only ones able to arrest somebody. If, she said, this can be understood when someone is caught red-handed, what about cases in which a "suspect" is arrested?

Finally, Article 24 was unanimously criticized, particularly because of the legislative powers that the executive granted itself. The article stipulates: "The provisions of the current law can be adapted and extended by executive decree to companies in the private sector that fulfill the conditions provided for in Article 2 and whose list is established through the regulatory process."

How can one require the owner of a business to defend his property and severely punish him for violations?

Security Forces Kill 22 'Terrorists'

LD2009194695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement the security services today announced that the security forces had eliminated 22 terrorists following search operations in the provinces of Blida, Tiaret, Ain Defla, Jijel, Setif, and Chlef.

The statement added that the search operations had enabled the security forces to confiscate 18 hunting rifles, including a homemade rifle; three automatic rifles; a Kalashnikov assault rifle; two hamemade revolvers; and a hand grenade.

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Egypt

Mubarak Sends Message on Peace, POW's to Rabin

NC2009180095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak sent a message to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today. The message was delivered by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, who arrived in Israel today. MENA said Dr. al-Baz' visit aims to discuss ways to overcome the obstacles in the way of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. It also deals with the killing of Egyptian POW's by Israeli soldiers during the 1956 and 1967 wars.

Editor Wants Ambassador Recalled Over POW Case

NC2009195695 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 18 Sep 95 pp 16, 17

[Article by Deputy Chief Editor 'Adil Hammudah: "Our Ambassador to Israel Does Not Represent Egypt!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Attacking Egypt remains a popular, profitable job in Israel.

Any bit player can become a star if he finds pleasure in castigating Egypt. Any "lowly character" who knows how to write sensational headlines that tear our flesh becomes a national hero in the Hebrew lexicon.

The Israeli Government's cave is full of bats. The moment the cave is opened, all the birds of prey and their wounding remarks of which the Israeli psyche is full come rushing out.

From this cave a gruff Israeli official came out, rough like a desert rat. It was Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan. He came to Cairo brimming with an explosive hostility that turned him from an obscure official into a famous character like his predecessors in criminality Ariel Sharon and Moshe Dayan, whose name he carries.

We had not heard of Eli Dayan before that. We only heard the foul remarks he fired at us in our own country. In those remarks he played down the criminal killing of Israeli POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars, declaring: Let bygones be bygones. He said Egypt must either forget or beat its head against the wall because the Israeli war criminals were not going to be put on trial, his government was not going to pay compensation to cover up the scandal, and was not even going to apologize.

Dayan added that his government's legal adviser, who is usually responsible for investigating such cases, will not open this case. Dayan said: We will not pressure him to open it. The case is 40 years old.

We had naively imagined that Eli Dayan had come to express sorrow, that he would show some shame and blush, but he came to pour vinegar and pesticides into our wounds instead of a balm. We expected him to give us 100 Valium pills. Instead he brought out from between his teeth sharp razors like those used by thieves when they are in police detention.

What was really astounding was that during his stay in Cairo, he asked the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to facilitate the work of an Israeli team that was coming to search for the remains of Israelis who went missing in the 1973 war. It was natural for the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to consider this request a true example of "impudence." How can Israel show such attention and reverence to its soldiers' remains but at the same time adopt an indifferent attitude to the mass slaughter of Egyptian POW's by its generals?

The "little" Dayan returned to his country to tell the newspaper MA'ARIV that the Israeli team's journey had been postponed for several weeks because of tense relations between Egypt and Israel.

It is also astounding that before his journey to Cairo, Dayan summoned Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni to the Israeli Foreign Ministry and, according to MA'ARIV's 1 September issue, presented to him an official request from his government to the Egyptian Government to expedite the passage of the new press law which is currently under discussion by the Egyptian People's Assembly!!

MA'ARIV added: We cannot ignore the importance of this law to Israel because it will enable it to file lawsuits and make formal complaints to the highest officials in Egypt against every journalist who attacks Israel or harms its interests!

With total arrogance, Dayan told Israeli journalists: The passage of the Egyptian press law is in its final stages. I hope this law will restore discipline to Egyptian journalism and deter it.

Such remarks tear our flesh, penetrate into our most private affairs, and squeeze us like a lemon. In the final reckoning such remarks deal with the issue of peace in a barbaric manner, with fangs and claws. They are sufficient to dispel any illusions about the likelihood of a secure and tranquil peace between the Arabs and Israel.

At any rate, such remarks are not very surprising because everything between the Arabs and Israel is fragile. This is the custom of the Israelis; it is not something new to them. They believe in open, not covert, force.

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What is really surprising are the remarks that MA'ARIV attributed to the Egyptian ambassador to Israel. He denied that Egypt had canceled visits by Israeli officials to Israel until the Egyptian POW issue is settled.

He said: These reports are false. Our Israeli guests will be warmly and respectfully received in Egypt.

What warmth is the Egyptian ambassador talking about? What respect can we show to butchers who slaughtered our POW's and are not even sorry for what they did.

The Egyptian ambassador is speaking about Egyptians whom he does not know and, therefore, does not represent. It is inadmissible to explain away his remarks as being necessary in the context of diplomatic tact because Israel does not understand such things. It only knows the language of iron and fire.

The Egyptian ambassador confronted the Israeli arrogance with conspicuous weakness and presented to those who wound us by their words and actions statements that are stuffed with chocolate and mango juice.

We know that when we expose Israel, this will not make it feel ashamed because its political nakedness does not bother it. We know that exposure does not frighten it because it is a state that was founded on scandal. Nevertheless, it was the Egyptian ambassador's duty to play his role and do his job in exposing Israel, at least at this time when the Egyptians are full of grief and pain for what befell their POW's.

Instead of doing this, or even remaining silent, the Egyptian ambassador sharply criticized some Egyptian newspapers which had attacked Israel over the POW scandal. He described these newspapers as not being "serious."

Muhammad Basyuni did not remain silent when he should have done so. Neither did he tell us what constitutes serious journalism in his opinion. Is it the journalism that calls for closing the POW dossier and going back to sleep because sleep is nice and refreshing and patience is a virtue?

The Egyptian ambassador's task is to expose Israel, not to cover up its actions, to cause a scandal for it, not to hide its shame, to deal harshly with it in matters of national importance, not to handle it with gentleness and diffidence.

We feel that we have no other choice but to demand the Egyptian ambassador's recall from Israel, not in protest against Israel this time but in protest against the Egyptian ambassador himself.

Sudanese Minister's Comments on Violence Discussed

NC2109075695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0505 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—The newspapers AL- AKHBAR and AL-AHRAM have noted in their commentaries today that "statements by the Sudanese foreign minister, announcing that his country rejects assassinations and crimes of violence, contradict the facts and results of investigations confirming the involvement of the Sudanese regime in the attempt to assassinate President Husni Mubarak."

AL-AHRAM said the results of the investigations carried out by the Ethiopian authorities in this regard confirmed the Sudanese Government's involvement in the assassination attempt on more than one level. One of these levels was its sheltering terrorists inside Sudan and helping them to carry out acts of sabotage and violence in Egypt and in the countries of the Horn of Africa.

The newspaper said Uganda and Eritrea's breaking off of diplomatic relations with Sudan is the best evidence of this, as are developments in relations between Ethiopia and the Sudanese Government and the threats and inappropriate remarks by some members of the Sudanese Government, describing the Ethiopian Government's statement on Khartoum's involvement in the assassination attempt.

The newspaper said that if the Sudanese foreign minister's statements have any credibility, the Khartoum government should hand over the terrorists involved in the attempt on President Mubarak, terminate the presence of terrorists on its territory, end its ideological claims, and offer proof that it has good intentions by responding to the demands of the neighboring countries, be they Arab or otherwise.

AL-AKHBAR said the foreign minister of the Sudanese regime, who is planting and exporting terrorism, showed no signs of embarrassment when he stated that Sudan rejects assassinations and crimes of violence and condemns the devious assassination attempt arranged by his government against the president of Egypt.

The paper said Egyptian security authorities announced that they know the whereabouts of at least 20 farms that the ruling regime in Sudan has dedicated to preparing and training terrorists. Sudan has opened its doors to these terrorists to send them to the neighboring Arab, Islamic, and African countries.

The newspaper said it challenges the Khartoum government to declare its willingness to receive Arab,

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African, or international committees to reveal these terrorist hotbeds. These neutral committees will then submit their reports on the results of their investigations to the United Nations, the Arab League, and the Organization of African Unity. In light of these reports, Sudan's membership of these big organizations it still belongs to will be decided.

Situation of Workers in Libya Discussed

NC2109103495 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 18 Sep 95 p 11

[Article by 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Tawilah: "A Frank Talk With the Brothers in Libya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is no doubt that this magazine and its writers have repeatedly called for clearing the atmosphere of Egyptian-Libyan relations and for maintaining these relations. They continue to stand against the repeated imperialist attacks on Libya.

Proceeding from this perspective we address the Libyan leadership, in particular brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, with absolute frankness.

No one, in Egypt or Libya, can justify the reasons behind the flood of workers coming in across the Libyan-Egyptian border, workers expelled from Libya on the pretext that they do not have work permits, being treated like any other foreign workers in the same situation. This kind of behavior cannot be defended for numerous reasons.

The first is that the Egyptian workers are not foreign workers. It might be acceptable to consider all Arab workers foreigners in Libya but under no condition is it acceptable to consider the Egyptians foreign workers. The Egyptians should have a special and distinguished status in Libya setting them apart from all other nationalities.

This is not because of historic ties alone, but because all Egyptians, people and leadership, particularly leadership, should be given the greatest credit for the Libyan regime's continuing survival, safe from idiotic imperialist attacks. We say "continuing" and mean it, because the Americans and British had planned to raid Libya from the air because of the Lockerbie incident. They even planned to kidnap and assassinate the Libyan leader.

But history knows, as do the White House and the Libyan leadership, that Husni Mubarak's tremendous efforts stopped this idiotic crime. The Western nations had to suffice themselves with a siege on Libya.

Yes, it is an oppressive siege, but it is much better than a war or invasion. No one will oppose U.S. raids on Libya. The Western public is prepared for such shelling after the loud propaganda about Libyan terrorism and the Libyan Government's patronage of terrorism, investing in reckless acts in European and Western capitals.

The Libyan leadership knows the role of the Security Council and the UN. It also knows how bitter the shelling of Libya was, when the daughter of the Libyan president was assassinated and when no Arab country carried out any revenge.

And Egypt has not stopped its campaign against the siege on Libya. Last year some U.S. papers, goaded by the U.S. Administration, waged a campaign against Egypt for relaxing the siege on Libya through land crossings. It is clear that Egyptian policy to "kill" the Lockerbie affair is succeeding, even if slowly. Since this is the case the Egyptians are in no way foreigners. They are part of the web of Libyan popular resistance confronting the imperialist challenge represented in the desire to strike Libya from the air and then besiege it.

Proceeding from this, there is a need to treat the Egyptians according to the principles of Arab loyalty and virtue.

We do not even claim that it is for the sake of values, but for the sake of Libya and its regime.

It is not in the interest of the Libyan regime to arouse the Egyptian public against it as a force opposed to the government's policy. The Egyptians are shocked by Libya's behavior. The majority exclaimed: "What? Again?" In other words, the Libyan regime is repeating its mistreatment of Egypt and its people with these sudden and unexpected acts.

We tell the brothers in Libya to stop this game. Return the favor to the Egyptian workers, honor them, and issue work permits to those who do not have them.

The strange fact is that the Libyan leadership follows the same policy on the wretched Palestinian people. The tragedy is clear and exposed in al-Sallum.

Official Announces Arrest of 'Terrorists'

NC2109111895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—Egyptian Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has announced that the members of one of the most dangerous terrorist groups were arrested this morning. They were about to implement a big terrorist scheme inside the country upon instructions from abroad.

He said in a statement today while opening the Prison Unions Sporting Club that the State Security Investigations sector apprehended the 51 members of the group.

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Two members were killed during clashes with the security men and the others were arrested. The interior minister added that the security bodies thwarted the terrorist operation after efforts that continued throughout last night and into this morning.

He pointed out that the ministry is preparing a detailed statement on the group for release later today.

Brotherhood Figure Responds to Accusations

NC2009110695 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 13 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Muhammad Munir]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Group has renewed its criticism of the Muslim Brotherhood. In a new book, the introduction of which is written by Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, the group accused the Brotherhood of abandoning the Islamic shari'ah and making peace with the rulers.

Commenting on these accusations, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Guide and Spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi has told AL-AHALI that his group will not enter any disputes or arguments and that the claim that the Muslim Brothers have abandoned the shari'ah and failed to persistently demand its full implementation or to declare that Islam is the solution is absolutely groundless. No one from the Muslim Brotherhood, figures or leaders, has made any statement that could be construed as such. He added: Our statements and articles, particularly the main article that appears every Tuesday in the newspaper AL-SHA'B, repeatedly demand the implementation of the shari'ah provisions and declare that Islam is the solution.

Al-Hudaybi noted that the measures taken by the authorities against the Brothers were not surprising. They are a continuation of a policy started some 50 years ago by all governments that realized the power of the Muslim Brotherhood and their penetration into the various popular strata. We believe that the line of jurisprudence that we have opted for, which does not permit violence and sees no use in it, is the correct and acceptable choice and that preaching through reason and good counsel is capable of consolidating the Islamic values and the principles of shari'ah in the hearts of the Brothers and the people in general. Victory, God willing, will go to the moderate creed and the correct path. He added: We do not want to get into disputes or arguments, but let us ask — What benefit has violence achieved? What gains did those who believe in it and practice it make for themselves, their groups, or Islam in general?

Libya

Ministers Arrive for al-Rabitah Plant Inauguration

LD2009152695 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 20 Sep (JANA) — Dr. Ahmed Alaoui, Moroccan minister of health, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. During the visit the delegation will attend the inauguration of the al-Rabitah plant for basic pharmaceutical materials.

The minister and his delegation were met by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Health and Social Security.

The Moroccan minister made a statement to JANA in which he stressed the strength of the fraternal relations existing between the single Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Morocco. He added that his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah is part of efforts to bolster these relations, particularly in the area of health.

He also said: "We have come to take part in the inauguration of this pharmaceutical plant. This is an important achievement of which we are proud as Arabs and Africans; it goes some way toward building the future in the area of basic pharmaceutical materials."

Dr. Mas'ud Bin-Qayid al-Qasimi, health under secretary in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], also arrived here on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah, during which he will attend the inauguration of the al-Rabitah plant. He was met by the secretary general in charge of the General People's Committee for Health and Social Security [title as received].

The UAE health under secretary made a statement to JANA's correspondent and said he is happy to visit the Great Jamahiriyah to take part in the inauguration of this pharmaceutical plant. He also expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Health and Social Security for giving him the opportunity to attend the inauguration of the al-Rabitah plant for basic pharmaceutical materials.

Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Makhzanji, the Egyptian health minister, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli last night on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah during which they will attend the inauguration of the al-Rabitah plant. The minister and his delegation were met by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Health and Social Security.

The minister made a statement to JANA, saying that he and his delegation are happy to visit the Great

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Jamahiriyah. He also stressed the strength of the fraternal relations existing between the children of the single Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt. The Egyptian health minister also indicated that his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah comes as part of the efforts to consolidate and bolster the relations of cooperation between the two fraternal peoples in various health areas. He said that this pharmaceutical plant, the inauguration of which we will be attending today [as received], is a great achievement and edifice in the manufacture of medicines and raw pharmaceutical materials and this is something we are proud of.

Official on 'Voluntary Return' of Palestinians

LD2009153395 Tripoli JANA in English 1438 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, al-Fatih [September] 20 (JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY) — The secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity has refuted the reports published by various news media in respect of the so-called removal of Palestinians from the land of the Great Jamahariyah. He said there is no one Palestinian who had been removed and confirmed that what happened is the voluntary return of some Palestinians to their homeland.

In a statement he made following his meeting with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the secretary general of the Arab League he said the whole world is totally aware of the reality of the Libyan Arab position regarding the reality of the Palestinian cause.

The secretary confirmed that the Great Jamahariyah incites the Palestinian Arab people to abide by their historical rights in return but the decision is for the Palestinian people themselves to make.

He questioned who can prevent the return of the Palestinian Arab people to their homeland. He confirmed that the issue of the return of the Palestinian refugees is an issue for the Palestinian people who have full freedom in returning to their original homeland.

The secretary added: The time has come for the Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland in al-Akkah, Jaffa, Khalil and all the occupied Palestinian lands.

He added that the Palestinian people are facing a very serious conspiracy aiming at wobbling the Palestinian cause and indicated that international organisations are facing critical financial crises which led to their bankruptcy and that will lead to the transformation of the refugees issues into a forgotten cause.

In reply to what has been claimed by some news media that the Palestinians are forcibly returned from the Great Jamahariyah, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity said ask the Palestinian Embassy and the Lebanese Embassy in Tripoli and ask any fair-minded Palestinian about the reality of what had happened.

He questioned who is shedding tears over the Palestinians now — they have been living from 1948 in refugee camps in some Arab countries.

Sudan

President al-Bashir Addresses Rally in Khartoum

EA2009194995 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, addressed a huge public demonstration in front of the Council of Ministers building in Khartoum this morning. The demonstration was organized by the Popular Committee for the Defense of the Faith and the Homeland. All public sectors, trade unions, and various organizations participated in the demonstration, which condemned the conspiracy being conducted by the New World Order in order to undermine the country's unity, together with certain foreign fronts which participated in the destructive incidents recently experienced in Khartoum.

Lieutenant General al-Bashir began his address by praising the Sudanese masses who had affirmed their support for the concepts of the National Salvation Revolution, defended the country against any foreigner, and rejected all forms of foreign interference. He said Sudan would continue its march, led by strong people determined to defend its faith and unity at all costs. He said: We in Sudan have determined our course. Provocations and alliances can only strengthen our faith and conviction that we are on the right path. He said the banner of: There Is No God But Allah, had been adopted by the blood of martyrs and the strong stance by the Sudanese people.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir condemned the policy of the Voice of the Arabs Radio, saying it was specifically established to attenuate the Arab nation in the interests of Zionism and imperialism.

In his [word indistinct] address to the Sudanese masses, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir added: We shall not (?associate) with the (procession) of defeated agents and conspirators, because we are a people of the message. He pointed out that those gathering in Cairo, London, and Asmara were against Sudan. He said: This cannot divert our nation from its cultural course. Sudan's banner will not fall. We shall not retreat from the leaders of defeat. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir told those waiting for the government to

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fall while hiding behind raids by students and power-seeking inhabitants that they would not achieve power, because the National Salvation government represents the masses and the entire Sudanese people's revolution, against the hypocrites. He said: Anyone seeking power should pick up his weapon and come at us.

Al-Bashir referred to the lies being told by the opposition forces by means of their hostile broadcasts, to the effect that there were demonstrations in the various states of Sudan. He stressed that the states of Sudan make their decisions and enjoy all powers and prerogatives which hitherto the hated leaders of sectarianism had traded in.

The huge demonstration was earlier addressed by Professor Muhammad al-Bashir Bakhit, the secretary of missionary activities: Shaykh Ibrahim al-Sanusi, the deputy secretary general of the popular Arab and Islamic Conference: And representatives of the farmers' union, women's groups, and students.

Foreign Minister Discusses Relations With Egypt

EA2009201395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Arab League is scheduled to meet in Cairo today. Sudan's delegation to this meeting is led by the Foreign Minister Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the foreign minister has held a news conference in Cairo, during which he stressed Sudan's (?desire) to normalize its relations with all states. He said the problems and crisis between Sudan and Egypt needed to be tackled openly and frankly. He reiterated Sudan's rejection of any accusation concerning the attempt to assassinate Husni Mubarak.

Egyptian Official's Home in Khartoum Robbed

NC2009150495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 20 Sep (MENA)— The home of 'Ala' 'Abd-al-Sadiq, counselor at the Egyptian Consulate General in Khartoum, has been raided and robbed. The perpetrators forced the door open and stole the contents of the apartment. The incident occurred in broad daylight while the counselor was at work, even though the apartment is just a few meters from a police station, the French, Japanese, and United Arab Emirates Embassies, and there is an intense security presence in the area.

In April, the home of the Egyptian consul general suffered three similar incidents.

German Official Comments on Arrests

EA2009124095 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 18 Sep (SUNA) — An official of the German Embassy in Khartoum has denied claims made by Radio France [word indistinct] that two Sudanese expelled by Germany last week were arrested in Khartoum.

In a report published in today's AL-INQADH AL-WATANI, an official of the German Embassy expressed concern over the French report, inasmuch as the seven Sudanese were in his office when he heard the news. Later, a German journalist, who visited the Sudanese, found them in the company of their relatives. He interviewed them and they said they had not been subjected to any kind of pressure.

The source told AL-INQADH AL-WATANI that the German Embassy's comments on these claims, and the confirmation that the Sudanese are enjoying full freedom and the right of movement anywhere they want, proves that a vicious media campaign is being waged against Sudan without establishing the facts, the aim of which is to [word indistinct] baseless allegations. The source added that these facts refute the accusations of Amnesty International, which has persisted in propagating baseless claims against Sudan in order to undermine it along with its cultural course.

Former Prime Minister Comments on Demonstrations

MM2009140895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Kamal Hamid: "Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Tells AL-HAYAH: The Demonstrations Will Not Be the Last"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum, Jeddah, Cairo, AL-HAYAH — [passage omitted] Commenting on last week's demonstrations in Khartoum, former Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has said that they are a "natural reaction to the government's failure to ease living constraints and the failure of its higher education policy."

Al-Mahdi told AL-HAYAH that the students "were angered by the government's decision to withdraw the subsidy on university accommodations and living allowances and to continue to open universities without providing the necessary resources, just like putting a spoon of sugar in a barrel of water in the hope of changing its taste."

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Al-Mahdi added that "economic failure has contributed to the deterioration in conditions, hence the spontaneous move of the students, who called for the release of their detained colleagues, and the tension between the students' union leadership and some student associations. When these took to the street, they were joined by various public groups — which caused the government to suppress the demonstrations in a manner that resulted in casualties."

He said: "The government must realize that that move is not the first, nor will it be the last. And it must tackle its causes, instead of suppressing it.

"The Sudanese people want a democratic system and a just peace that stops the bloodshed in the war in the south. They want improved economic and living conditions and foreign relations. All this can only be achieved by holding a constitutional conference [mu'tamar dusturi] grouping all the people of Sudan to determine the steps for the future."

Al-Mahdi acknowledged the existence of a relative political relaxation in the country, demanding that "this relaxation continue and that changes be made in laws and policies which arrest people for expressing their opinions objectively."

He went on: "Some of the extremists calling for violence must realize that violence will not achieve any good results. It is an impasse." He denied the existence of official or unofficial contacts with him to achieve national reconciliation. He said: "We hear and read about that in the press as the wish of some people." [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Briefs Governors on Security

EA2009205395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The interior minister, Staff Brigadier Bakri Hasan Salih, held a closed-door meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Kassala today with state governors currently in Kassala, whom he briefed on the security situation in the country.

At the end of the meeting, the governors of the Sudanese states issued the Kassala Declaration, which stressed that there would be no retreat from or diminution of the people's choice to adhere to the Islamic Shari'ah, and to consolidate and enrich it with their souls and spirits. They stressed that the federal system was aimed at enabling states to redistribute power. They stressed that they would endeavor to expand mutual consultation, consolidate justice, and support peace from within by way of the national peace fund.

Council Suspends Publication of Independent Daily

AB2009164395 Paris AFP in French 1216 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 20 Sep [AFP] — AL RAI AL- AKHAR [THE OTHER OPINION], an independent Sudanese daily, has been suspended by the National Media and Publications Council, the government daily AL SUDAN AL-HADITH reported today. The decision was motivated by the daily's failure to appoint a "qualified acting editor-in-chief" to replace Mohin Eddin Titawi; the substantive editor-in-chief, who has been away from the country; despite repeated warnings, as the council's chairman Mohamed Said Maarouf explained to AL SUDAN AL HADITH.

The council has therefore "decided to freeze the publication," for a period not specified by AL SUDAN AL HADITH. No political reason was cited. Mr. Titawi is known to be a fervent supporter of the National Islamic Front [NIF], which was dissolved along with other political parties in the June 1989 military coup, but whose leader, Hassan al-Turabi, plays an eminent role in Khartoum.

AL RAI AL-AKHAR recently published an article by lawyer Ghazi Sulayman, criticizing the government of General Hasan al-Bashir and alleging that Sudan was internationally isolated "and needed to be saved now, more than ever." In another article, AL RAI AL-AKHAR quoted Amin Banani, a deputy and NIF member, as saying that NIF activists controlled the government.

Meanwhile, two other publications, which had been suspended since April, have again been authorized by the council on the orders of the attorney general. They are the weekly DHALIL [SHADOWS], which was suspended for administrative reasons, and the sporting daily AL KURA [THE BALLOON], which wsa suspended along with other publications for publishing "witchcraft-related" articles reporting the case of a healer using the Koran.

Tunisia

Ben Yahia Dicusses Peace Process With Christopher

LD2009155395 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Upon instructions given by President Ben Ali and with the aim of continuing Tunisia's efforts aimed at ensuring the success of the Middle East peace process within the framework of the search for a just, comprehensive, and permanent settlement for the region's disputes, Foreign Minister

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Habib Ben Yahia held talks yesterday at the U.S. State Department in Washington with Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The meeting was attended by Christopher's two assistants, Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for near eastern affairs, and Dennis Ross, the peace process coordinator, as well as Azzouz Ennaifer, Tunisian ambassador in Washington.

The talks dealt with the progress of the peace process in the light of the latest developments within the framework of the continuous and regular Tunisian-U.S. consultations which the two leaders of the two countries have called for.

The talks also reviewed the situation in the region, the efforts made to ensure the success of the current negotiations at different levels and finding the solutions to some problems in the region. The two sides also assessed bilateral relations and ways to bolster them in all areas.

The U.S. secretary of state asked Habib Ben Yahia to convey his personal greetings and President Clinton's greetings to President Ben Ali.

Christopher praised, in a news conference held before the talks, Tunisia's contribution to the peace process. He spoke warmly about relations between the United States and Tunisia and their importance for both countries. He added that the periodic meetings between the two ministers of foreign affairs had become part of the tradition of consultations between Tunisia and the United States especially as regards the situation in the region and the peace process.

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GCC Chairman Views Iraqi Situation, Future

MM2009154995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Sep 95 pp 1,6

[Report on Interview with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah by unidentified correspondent in Riyadh on 18 September]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, AL-HAYAH — Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah has warned that the continued deterioration of economic conditions in Iraq will have serious repercussions on that country's future. He urged the Iraqi Government to implement all the Security Council resolutions. He told AL-HAYAH, in a statement made in Riyadh where he is chairing meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign Ministers, that "the full implementation of the Security Council resolutions is the only way to lift the sanctions and enable Iraq to interact freely with the world."

He stressed that the GCC countries have no desire to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs, and expressed the opinion that recent developments in Iraq are an Iraqi matter. He added that what the GCC countries are interested in is for "Iraq to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy and abandon the position it is adopting toward its neighbors." He expressed his hope that stability would prevail in Iraq and that its territorial integrity would be safeguarded.

[AL-HAYAH] Recent developments in Iraq will be among the issues to be addressed by the meeting of Gulf ministers. How do you view these developments?

[Al Khalifah] The situation in Iraq is a permanent item on the GCC agenda. The situation in Iraq and its developments are important issues to the states in the region, and we, in the GCC, abide by the UN resolutions and their implementation. We hope that Iraq will implement these resolutions, especially those concerning POW's and detainees. We are always hopeful that the Iraqi people's plight is alleviated, but this will only happen if Iraq implements the resolutions concerning its war with Kuwait. There will be a comprehensive review of this issue and an exchange of views among the brother-ministers, and we hope that we will achieve a unified position on this issue."

[AL-HAYAH] Do you believe that the recent developments in Iraq — by that we mean General Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan — will lead to changes in the situation in Iraq and the region?

[Al Khalifah] We believe that the problem is Iraq's implementation of the Security Council resolutions. What is happening inside Iraq and what the Iraqi opposition does, is an Iraqi matter. We do not want to discuss internal affairs or the regime that the Iraqi people choose. Instead we prefer to discuss Iraq's compliance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the need for Iraq to abandon the position it is adopting toward its neighbors, especially our brothers in Kuwait. We hope that stability will prevail in Iraq and that its territorial integrity will be safeguarded. We are for the safeguarding of its territorial integrity and we wish the Iraqi people progress and a decent living.

[AL-HAYAH] Are you not worried that, if the current situation in Iraq continues, it would lead to its partition?

[Al Khalifah] We have always maintained that we support Iraq's unity and believe that the deterioration of its economic situation would have serious repercussions on Iraq's future. To that effect we urge the full implementation of the resolutions. We see this as the only way to enable Iraq to have the sanctions lifted, and interact freely with the rest of the world, selling its oil and importing whatever food or medicine it needs.

[AL-HAYAH] Will a meeting of foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states be held on the sidelines of the Arab League Council meetings in Cairo?

[Al Khalifah] Yes. In the ministerial meeting of the Damascus Declaration states in Manama last July, it was agreed to hold a meeting on the sidelines of the [Arab] League Council meetings. The meeting will take place, God willing, on Wednesday. There will be an exchange of views on what has been agreed, and I only hope that there will be cooperation among the brotherly states, namely Egypt, Syria and the GCC countries, in the interest of Arab solidarity and the cohesion among Arab states.

[AL-HAYAH] At the meeting of the Damascus Declaration states in Manama, you agreed on a document for the framework of joint Arab action and said you were waiting for the approval of the governments concerned before submitting it at the Arab League Council meeting. Has this approval been given?

[Al Khalifah] This matter will be discussed during our meeting 17 September in Riyadh and also in Cairo. During these meetings we will consider the various viewpoints. I have great hopes that there will be unanimous agreement on this issue.

Saudi Arabia

Government Supports Nuclear-Free Middle East

LD2009222595 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia today stressed its eagerness to support genuine intentions to establish an area free of nuclear weapons in the

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Middle East. In this regard, it emphasized that the only way to achieve this was for the states of the region, without exception, to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], and for the states to apply comprehensive safeguards at all their nuclear installations.

This was stated in the kingdom's speech to the 39th session of the general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] currently convening in Vienna 18-22 September. Isa 'Abdallah Nuwaysir, head of the kingdom's delegation to the conference, Saudi ambassador to Austria, and permanent representative at the United Nations and international organizations in Vienna, delivered the speech.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expressed its conviction that the comprehensive implementation of IAEA safeguards within the framework of the NPT wherever there were opportunities for building mutual trust between the states concerned would allow them to share in organizing their relations when they exercized their legitimate right to produce, develop, and use nuclear power for peaceful purposes; to exchange nuclear materials, information, and technology; to enjoy the advantages and benefits of the peaceful applications of the atom; to coordinate to halt the nuclear arms race; and to carry out nuclear disarmament under international control.

In its address, the kingdom made it clear that this would contribute positively and effectively to achieving peace and maintaining security, not only in the area of implementation but throughout the world.

The kingom's delegate to the United Nations and international organizations expressed his regret at the continuation of nuclear testing that is being carried out by some countries despite the profound fears that they pose a threat to life, health, and the environment.

Committee Transfers 3 Million Riyals to PLO

LD2009131495 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] 'Abd-al-Rahim Jamus, director general of the People's Committee for Helping the Palestinian Mujahidin, has announced that on the orders of His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh and chairman of the People's Committee for Helping the Palestinian Mujahidin, the sum of 3,121,720 Saudi riyals was transferred today from the income of the People's Committee to the PLO.

Jamus said the sum represents the second installment of the People's Committee's transfers to the PLO during the current year. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Security Forces Arrest Members of Islamic Group

MM2009151295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Faysal Makram: "Yemen: Arrest Campaign Against Members of Coalition Parties"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sanaa — Yemeni forces — with the help of units from the Army — yesterday and the day before launched a large-scale arrest campaign in Ibb (200 km south of Sanaa) against elements from the Islamic movement in the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] (a partner in the ruling coalition) and some elements from the General People's Congress [GPC].

This information was confirmed by security sources in Ibb contacted by telephone from Sanaa yesterday.

The sources pointed out that the search and storming of some houses and the arrest of some elements happened after the assault on Ahmad al-Sabari, director of the Education Ministry office in Ibb Governorate, following sharp disagreements between GPC elements and YRG elements.

The sources added that the arrest campaign also included a group of leading GPC figures, among them the deputy director of the Education Ministry office in the governorate, who also holds the post of head of the GPC branch in the al-Qa'idah area in Ibb Governorate, in addition to another four leading GPC figures in the city, since the finger of accusation is pointed at them. They are accused of involvement in planning the assault on al-Sabari in cooperation with YRG elements, among them individuals who are already in custody.

The sources said that the security organs are performing their duty of protecting law and order and the citizens, and anyone who tries to disrupt security will be arrested and punished in accordance with the law, irrespective of his party status. [passage omitted]

Aide Denies Arabs Held on 'Terrorism' Charges

MM2109095695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Sep 95 p 7

[Report by Faysal Makram: "Yemeni Interior Minister Tells AL-HAYAH: Security Campaign Intended To Reduce Number of Foreigners Residing Illegally. No Arabs Are Detained in Yemen on Charges of Terrorism or Extremism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa — Colonel Husayn 'Arab, Yemeni interior minister, has denied that there are any Arab citizens detained by Yemeni security forces on

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charges of extremism or terrorism, or any of the so-called "Arab Afghans" among Islamist elements.

Col. 'Arab told AL-HAYAH, in an exclusive statement in Sanaa yesterday, that Yemeni security forces have, for nearly two months, conducted a security campaign aiming at reducing the number of non-Yemeni elements, of Arab and other nationalities, residing illegally on Yemeni territory. No less than 2,000 of these are held by Yemeni security forces pending investigation. None of them have been detained on charges of terrorism or religious extremism, or otherwise, because "we have no such evidence, or such individuals."

He went on: "We are surprised at some fabricated news reports about groundless issues, such as the handing over of Islamist elements to the Egyptian authorities and others. This kind of talk is unacceptable. The Egyptian authorities have, in the past, received erroneous information about the presence of such elements in Yemen from the secessionist traitors in the Socialist Party and those in their entourage who want to tarnish Yemen's reputation and ruin the close relations between our country, Egypt, and some brotherly and friendly states. We have met with officials of the Egyptian security forces, and they have ascertained that there are no elements in Yemen who are wanted by the Egyptian authorities."

The Yemeni interior minister added that "what is being stirred up now about so-called Islamic extremists of Arab nationalities in Yemen is nothing but a new storm that the enemies of stability in Yemen, led by secessionist elements, are trying to create. The modern history of Yemen has witnessed their dealings and acts of treason against their country and people, with the aim of undermining the security and stability that Yemen now enjoys."

The Yemeni interior minister denied, at the end of his statement, some statements recently attributed to Brigadier General Yahya al- Mutawakkil, former interior minister and deputy general secretary of the General People's Congress, to the effect that Yemeni security forces have deported hundreds of Islamic extremists, including some Egyptians, who created problems in Arab countries. He said: "We have no knowledge of such facts. Those arrested by the authorities have been arrested for violating the laws in force in relation to their entry into and residence in Yemen. These measures have no political motive."

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U.S. Reportedly Seeking Contact With Baghdad

TA2009150395 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 19 Sep 95 pp 1, 15

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH — AL- HAYAH AL-JADIDAH has learned that the United States recently put forward a political proposal to Iraq that calls for Baghdad declaring its support for the peace process and its readiness to participate in it. In return, direct channels would be opened for contact between Iraqi and U.S. leaderships. This contact is aimed at paving the way for lifting the five-year international blockade imposed on Iraq.

A high-ranking Jordanian political source has said this proposal came in the wake of the launching of an indirect channel of contact between Baghdad and Washington via Amman.

The source said the United States is demanding that Iraq join the ongoing peace process between the Arabs and Israel in return for offering international guarantees to Baghdad to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity and refrain from attempts to destabilize the Iraqi regime. [passage omitted]

Acting Assembly Speaker Meets Russian Charge

JN2009155295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)— Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri, acting National Assembly speaker, today met with Vladimir Belovich, Russian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral parliamentary ties and the means to promote them in the interest of the two friendly countries and peoples.

Jordanian Minister's Comments on Defector Cited

JN2009184495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement published in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH today, Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti admitted that Husayn Kamil needs political rather than financial support. He indicated that Husayn Kamil deposited $30 million in a Jordanian bank ahead of a visit he had made to Moscow via Amman prior to his defection to Jordan.

Regime Said Trying To Form Anti-Jordanian Trend

NC2009153495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian sources in Amman said today that various Jordanian authorities assess the Iraqi regime's intense media campaign as trying to create a Jordanian trend opposed to the official Jordanian stand toward Saddam Husayn's regime.

The sources said that through wide-scale investigations, the Jordanian authorities are seeking to uncover the regime's penetration of media agencies and business companies in Jordan.

The sources added that Jordanian officials have uncovered many fictitious companies registered in Jordan and owned by officials in Saddam Husayn's regime. The authorities also discovered that official parties in the regime are trying to enlist writers and journalists and mobilize all forces loyal to the ruling regime by offering presents and gifts to create a Jordanian trend opposed to the official stand.

Jordanian authorities confirmed that they have discovered persons who receive funds from Saddam Husayn directly, including former officials, writers, and journalists.

KDP Blames PUK for Dublin Talks' Failure

JN2009200295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to German radio, Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], said the failure of the second round of the Dublin talks was the result of the intransigent and arrogant stands of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK]. However, he added, this will not be the end of everything and should not be the reason for torpedoing the agreement that was reached in Drogheda.

German radio broadcast on 19 September the text of the interview conducted by the radio correspondent with brother Sami 'Abd-al- Rahman, head of our party delegation to the Dublin talks. Asked about the reasons behind the failure of the Dublin talks, brother Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman said:

In fact, the PUK delegation came to the Dublin talks with extreme intransigence. The PUK delegation wanted to go back on the agreement of principles which was signed in Drogheda. The delegation concentrated on one thing, namely the revenues of Ibrahim al-Kahlil [Customs Point], leaving the other important things, such as the need to tackle the situation in Irbil — that is, disarming it — the convening of the parliament, the formation of a new government, elections, and the people's living conditions. The PUK delegation did not give these issues any attention. Despite this, our party delegation went to Dublin with determination and will work toward reaching an agreement. Despite this, the failure to reach an agreement does not mean the end of

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everything and should not be a reason for torpedoing the agreement that was reached in Drogheda.

Regarding the irresponsible stand of the PUK delegation, Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman said: Regrettably, in the final session of the Dublin talks, the PUK's irresponsible stand was clear. That stand was even aggressive when the delegation announced before all participants in the meeting that the PUK does not endorse or reiterate its commitment to the Drogheda statement, including the cease-fire. I believe this stand was irresponsible.

Asked by German radio about the dangers of these differences to the cause of the Kurdish people and their future and on the need to overcome these differences, Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman said: We, in the KDP, are fully aware of this. Therefore, we declared and will declare for all that the KDP will continue to abide by the ceasefire and by the agreement of principles reached in Drogheda. Also, the KDP will continue to work positively with the U.S. sponsor and all parties to the issue until we reach a comprehensive and good agreement to resolve all our country's problems.

PUK Issues Statement on Dublin Talks

NC2009160695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Political Bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] issued a statement two days ago about the results of the recent Dublin meetings. The statement explained the PUK's position and views on future conditions in Kurdistan.

This is the text of the statement:

We, the PUK, have always supported peaceful coexistence and opposed destructive infighting. For this reason, we sought peace and understanding during the Dublin meetings. Our efforts were designed to attain peace, not to create obstacles that would prevent progress in the negotiations.

Out of our wish to continue the efforts to establish peace, we declare the following:

First, the PUK remains committed to all the principles of the Dublin talks which were announced on 11 August 1995.

Second, the PUK is willing to attend a high-level meeting to solve all disagreements in a way designed to serve our nation's interests.

Third, to ensure the success of the peace process and reach an agreement, the salaries of all employees in the region of Kurdistan must be disbursed from the revenues of the Ibrahim al-Khalil Customs Point. [Passage indistinct]

Commentary Views Failure of Kurd Negotiations

NC2009181995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] During and even before the Dublin meeting, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] did its utmost to attain a comprehensive and just peace in Kurdistan, end the tragedy of domestic strife, remove the specter of more fighting, and restore amity and agreement.

In the first stage of the Dublin meetings, the two conflicting parties succeeded in agreeing on principles. This created an atmosphere of optimism among the Kurdistani masses. During the second stage of the meetings, the two parties failed to formulate a comprehensive agreement to bring peace to Kurdistan because the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] insisted on evacuating PUK forces from Irbil but at the same time wanted to keep its own forces in Salah-al-Din. The KDP wanted to evade the necessity of returning the revenues collected at the Ibrahim al-Khalil Customs Point to the government treasury.

Regrettably, this insistence created obstacles that prevented the formulation of a comprehensive peace agreement in Kurdistan. To demonstrate the soundness of its positive attitude and firm belief in peace and coexistence, the PUK Political Bureau issued a statement two days ago about the second stage of the Dublin meetings. It emphasized its opposition to domestic infighting, its constant search for peace and understanding, and total commitment to the first principles of the Dublin meetings, which were announced on 11 August 1995.

The PUK also declared its willingness to hold a high-level meeting to handle all disagreements and issues between it and the KDP in a manner beneficial to our people's interests.

To ensure the success of the peace process and until such a time when an agreement is reached between the two parties, the PUK Political Bureau's statement urged that the salaries of employees in the region of Kurdistan be disbursed from the revenues of the Ibrahim al-Khalil Customs Point. It also called for a halt to the harassment of supporters of the two parties and other individuals, the removal of road barriers between Zakho and other cities, and freedom for all people to engage in commercial activities.

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This means that the PUK believes peace is the only path the parties must pursue in order to provide security and reassurance for the Kurdistani people. It believes that a constructive, serious dialogue that is free of narrow partisan considerations is the only method to achieve peace.

Let the two parties make efforts to bring their views closer because opportunities for peace still exist. If the two parties reach a comprehensive peace agreement that restores security and stability to Kurdistan and spares our people the dangers of war, this will be the greatest service they can do for the Kurdistani people at this time.

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Iranian Plane Departs; Hijacker Remains in Custody

TA2009181795 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Sep 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The affair of the hijacked Iranian plane ended about 30 minutes ago, upon the plane's takeoff from the 'Uvda airfield. This morning the Inner Cabinet decided to allow the plane, all its passengers and its crew, to return to Iran. The hijacker is still being detained by the Elat police. [passage omitted]

Violence, Riots, Strikes Occur in Nabulus

'Youngster' Shot; Possible Police Link

TA2009133195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A serious incident took place at noon today in Nabulus. About 20 Palestinian youngsters pelted a police patrol car with stones. One of the policemen spotted a youngster holding a homemade weapon and shot at him. The patrol car then left the site. The wounded youngster fled, and later on the body of a dead local youngster with gunshot wounds was brought to the hospital in Nabulus. His family snatched the body away, and our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that it is now being checked whether the two incidents are linked.

'Serious' Riots; 2 Palestinians Killed

TA2009185695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Sep 95

[Yoram Kohen video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Two Palestinians were killed today in serious riots in Nabulus. Our correspondent Yoram Kohen reports that a second fatality, 'Umar Harun, was reported a short time ago, in addition to 'Umar Ahmad Razawi, who was killed at noon today when policemen who came under a hail of stones opened fire. Here is Yoram Kohen's report:

[Begin Kohen recording] [passage omitted] Serious rioting erupted in the city following Razawi's death. Youngsters took to the streets and threw stones at the security forces. Prior to the incident at noon today, a commercial strike was declared in the city in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners. The city will observe yet another strike tomorrow, this time to protest the death of Razawi. [end recording]

Strike Declared To Mourn Two Youths

JN2109075995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A general strike is prevailing today in the city of Nabulus to mourn the death of two youths, Nash'at 'Umar Hirun and 'Umar Ahmad al-Ghazzawi. [passage omitted] Clashes and confrontations continued until late yesterday in all parts of Nabulus. Palestinian youths closed all streets with concrete blocks and burning tires to express their extreme denunciation and anger at the suppressive practices of the occupation troops against unarmed citizens.

Nabulus fire brigade sources said Palestinian youths managed to bury martyr Nash'at Hirun last night in the city's eastern cemetery despite the tight siege imposed on the city by the occupation authorities.

Nationalist forces in the area announced through loudspeakers a general strike today to mourn the two martyrs of Nabulus and express their denunciation of the practices of the occupation forces and members of the Israeli special units against the residents of the city.

Arab Journalists Detained; IDF Stoned

TA2109093995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] this morning detained four Palestinian journalists who work for foreign news agencies while they were engaged in their press work in Nabulus. Military sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the four broke an order and entered a closed military zone. They were transferred to the Nabulus police.

There were several incidents involving the stoning of IDF forces in Nabulus this morning, but there were no casualties. There is a general strike in the city as a sign of mourning for the death of two residents in clashes with the security forces yesterday.

The Palestinian journalists who work for foreign media are setting up a committee that will act to defend their rights as journalists. They say that the IDF forces in the territories pick on them and do not allow them to carry out their journalistic work. They claim that they have appealed to several elements in Israel, including the Government Press Office and the IDF spokesman, but have not received any assistance. Yesterday, the security forces prevented them from covering President Weizman's visit to Hebron, and President Weizman even apologized to them for this.

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Gaza Closed 'at Least' Until After Rosh Hashanah

TA2009155195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Musa 'Arafat, head of Gaza's Palestinian Intelligence, says Israel has announced that it possesses information that the Islamic Jihad is plotting to carry out a suicide attack in Israel in the coming days, and a closure was imposed on the Gaza Strip as a result.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem has learned that the closure on the Strip will last at least until after Rosh Hashanah [which ends the evening of 26 September].

Rabin Said Demanding PA Extradition of Suspects

TA2109093595 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Barukh Me'iri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has changed his mind and currently believes that the Palestinian Authority [PA] does not have the authority to try the Palestinians suspected of murdering two Israeli youths in Wadi al-Qilt, and that they should therefore be extradited immediately to Israel.

A senior source in the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday that Rabin had changed his mind after receiving the legal opinion of the attorney general, which was drafted by his aide, Attorney No'am Solberg. The source explained: "The legal opinion leaves no doubt as to Israel's right to receive the suspected murderers. As soon as the prime minister reached the conclusion that his initial decision was a mistake, he admitted as much and immediately corrected it."

In the past, Rabin maintained that the PA was following the letter of the agreement because the suspects were sentenced to seven and 12 years in prison by a Jericho court. "It stinks, but it is kosher," he said at the time.

It has been made known that in recent consultations held in his office, Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir said that Israel must reconsider the issue of releasing security prisoners. "Israel should not be ashamed of making their release conditional on extraditing those suspected of committing murders," he said.

Rabin Believes IDF To Support Political Decisions

TA1809120695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he has no doubt that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders and soldiers will do everything possible to back the political echelon's decisions with the best security support. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Mr. Rabin met this morning with members of the General Staff on the occasion of Rosh Hashanah and wished the IDF wounded a speedy recovery. He emphasized that the efforts to bring the IDF MIA's home will continue.

Mr. Rabin also met with the military attaches of the foreign embassies in Israel and told them that suicide attacks are the main problem facing the security forces. According to Rabin, Islamic terror does not threaten Israel's existence but the strategic threat it harbors may affect the peace process.

Hebron Jewish Community Issues 'Position Paper'

TA2109095695 (Internet) Hebron Today in English 19 Sep 95

["Position Paper #2" issued by the "Jewish Community of Hebron" on 19 September]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

DECLARATION OF INTENT

The Jewish Community of Hebron declares its intention to continue to reside within the City of Hebron, the city of the Patriarchs. The citizens of Hebron will not leave the city of their own free will under any circumstances or for any reason.

The Jewish Community of Hebron declares its intention to continue to live peaceably in Hebron, to pray in Hebron, and to develop the Jewish Community of Hebron.

The Jewish Community of Hebron declares that it has no intention to forcibly remove Arabs residing in Hebron from the city of Hebron, nor does the Jewish Community of Hebron reject the rights of Arabs to live and worship in Hebron.

The Jewish Community of Hebron demands that Arabs in Hebron accept continued Israeli rule in Hebron as well as accept and respect of the continued legitimate Jewish presence in Hebron. All violence and terrorist actions against Jews must be ended and deplored.

The Jewish Community in Hebron declares that it has no desire to enter into armed conflict with Arabs in Hebron or in the greater Hebron region. The Community's sole desire is to continue to reside peacefully in the City of Abraham, under Israeli sovereignty.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPALS [as received] AND RESPONSIBILITY

1. Hebron is a Jewish City situated in the heart of the State of Israel, in the Land of Israel.

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2. Jews have an inalienable right to live in Hebron, the City of the Patriarchs. The rights of the Jewish People in Hebron stem from a 3,700-year-old inheritance, dating to the era of the Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Kingdom of David was initiated in Hebron. Jews lived in Hebron for thousands of years, until the 1929 massacre, which left 67 Jews dead and hundreds wounded. The result of the massacre was the expulsion of the remaining Jews from Hebron by the British Mandatory Forces, then occupying the Land of Israel.

3. Jews returned to Hebron in 1967, following the Israeli victory in the Six-Day War, which commenced because of Arab aggression and threats against the State of Israel. Jews have inhabited Hebron continuously since 1968. Hebron is an inseparable, integral component of the State of Israel and the Jewish People and may be governed solely by the government of Israel.

4. The greater Hebron region includes 550 Jews living in the heart of the city of Hebron, 6,000 Jews living in Qiryat 'Arba- Hebron, and additional 500 Jews in settlements around Hebron. The total Hebron Jewish population includes over 7,000 Israeli citizens.

5. The Israeli government is the sole legal body ruling in Hebron.

6. The Israeli government is solely responsible for the security of all Israelis in the Hebron region.

7. The Israel Defense Force is the only legal armed force that may provide security in Hebron.

8. Foreign armed forces, composed of murderous terrorists whose goal is the expulsion of Jews from Hebron, and the continued killing of men, women and children, will not be allowed under any circumstances to freely patrol the streets of Hebron.

9. Any foreign armed force within Hebron will be regarded to as an enemy force, and will be reacted to accordingly.

10. Any attempt by a foreign armed force to administer law and order in Hebron will be viewed as an act of war and will be reacted to accordingly.

11. If the Israeli Defense Force is removed from Hebron, the Jewish Community of Hebron will provide security and defense for all residents and visitors in the Hebron region.

12. Removal of the Israeli Defense Force from Hebron will be regarded as an act of treason and betrayal against the people of Israel and specifically against the Jewish residents of the Hebron region.

13. Any and all armed violence against Jews as a result of the agreements reached between the present Israeli regime and terrorist leader 'Arafat is the total responsiblity of the Israeli government.

14. Should the present Israeli government betray its own Land and People, the Jewish Community of Hebron will demand that all legal actions proscribed by the law be enforced and that the perpetrators be brought to justice immediately.

15. The Jewish Community in Hebron calls upon all Jews and gentiles in Israel and throughout the world to support continued Jewish presence and soverienty in Hebron, the first capital of Israel and the city of the Patriarchs.

Sarid Briefs Knesset on Developments in Taba Talks

TA2009174895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cabinet minister Yosi Sarid says Israel will defend the Jews living in Hebron, but will not remain in parts of the city not essential for that purpose. Sarid responded for the government to several motions for the agenda at a special session in the Knesset plenum. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] The Likud's Beni Begin accused Prime Minister Rabin of running in the 1992 election on the Labor Party platform but running the country since based on the Meretz plan. Meretz cabinet minister Yosi Sarid responded for the government in the debate on the negotiations with the Palestinians. Today's special session was the third during the late summer recess. Sarid complained about the small turnout in the plenum. Referring to the 30 signatures necessary to hold a special debate, Sarid said Knesset members should not sign if they do not intend to come.

On the marathon Taba discussions, Minister Sarid said: During the coming hours, at the very latest in the coming days, the agreement will be signed. He conceded, however, that the problem of Hebron has yet to be resolved. For now, Sarid said, the government accepts the Jewish presence in Hebron as a fait accompli, and we will provide all of the protection possible to the Jews residing there. But he went on: The demographic reality, like it or not, makes Hebron a Palestinian city. We will be in Hebron only in those places where it is necessary for the protection of the Jewish residents, and we will not be in those places where it is not necessary for achieving this objective. Sarid countered the arguments that Israel was handing over too much territory to the Palestinians and was not leaving open Israeli options

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in the permanent arrangement. The minister, apparently referring to yesterday's crisis in the talks at Taba, said that when Chairman Yasir 'Arafat saw the Israeli maps on who will control the various areas in the West Bank, 'Arafat, according to Sarid, understood that there is a lot left for the negotiations on the permanent arrangement, that the Palestinians are not happy with Israel being responsible for so much of the West Bank under the current arrangement. All options are open, Minister Sarid said, except one: The possibility that the Israeli opposition will reinstate Israeli rule in all of the land, he said, has been eliminated. [end recording]

Right-Wing Groups Set Up Umbrella Organization

TA2009191495 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Sep 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The nonparliamentary right-wing groups have set up a joint body. Zo Artzenu [This Is Our Land]; the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; Shalom Ledorot [Peace for Generations]; and the Organization of Rabbis in Judaea and Samaria will operate under a single umbrella organization to be called Ha'atzeret Hayehudit Hale'umit [The Jewish National Assembly]. This is reported by our political editor Gadi Sukenik.

Leading members of The Third Way met this evening with the leaders of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and reached an accord in principle about the optimal permanent arrangement in the West Bank. Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili will tomorrow try to persuade fellow party members who are also part of The Third Way not to set up their own party. It should be pointed out, however, that Avigdor Qahalani is abroad, while 'Imanu'el Zismann announced that he would boycott the meeting with Zvili.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 20 September adds: "The Organization of Rabbis in Eretz Yisra'el gathered in Qiryat Arba' this evening and issued a call on Jewish communities in the United States not to donate money to the Israeli Government as long as it does not demand from the Palestinian Authority to extradite murderers and to protest the negotiations about the future of Hebron."]

Rabbis Endorse Halikic Ruling Against Evacuations

TA2109103695 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 21 Sep 95 p 1

[ITIM report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Organization of Eretz Yisra'el Rabbis yesterday adopted a decision endorsing the halakic ruling by Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza rabbis forbidding soldiers to obey an order to evacuate settlements and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bases from Judaea and Samaria.

The decision was made at a rally held yesterday in Qiryat Arba' which was attended by hundreds of rabbis from Israel and abroad, including former Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira, Rabbi Hayim Druckman, Rabbi Eli'ezer Waldman, and others.

Also attending the rally were senior reserve officers who are active in right-wing groups, including reserve Brigadier General Aharon Levran, reserve Brigadier General Moshe Leshem, reserve Colonel Gid'on Altshuler, and retired Lieutenant Colonel Shlomo Baum.

The final decision made at the rally and read by Rabbi Druckman also states that the government has no authority to compel the people of Israel to return any piece of Eretz Yisra'el. Furthermore, any agreement that is signed and stipulates that Israel return any part of its land will be null and void. The government that succeeds the present government will be forbidden to implement the agreement signed by its predecessor. It was also decided to denounce the U.S. President's intervention in the affairs of Eretz Yisra'el and the matters holy for the Jewish religion, and to appeal to Jewish communities overseas to join the struggle over the integrity of the land. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Khatib To Head New Islamic List

TA1809102695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Sep 95 p A5

[Report by Yosef Elgazi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In addition to Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi's list, whose establishment was announced in al-Tayyibah two days ago, another Arab list, named the Islamic Arab Faction, was formed in Kafr Kanna over the weekend. Its members, who announced their plans to run in the next Knesset elections, will strive to form a joint Arab list. At this stage, they have appointed temporary institutions whose task will be to convene the movement's founding assembly and draft its platform and internal constitution.

Shaykh 'Atif Khatib, who recently quit the Islamic Movement in Kafr Kanna, was elected the movement's chairman, Hajj Ahmad Hawajah from Baqa al-Gharbiyya will be his deputy, and Shaykh Mazin Mahzumi from Nazareth will be the secretary. [passage omitted]

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Shahal 'Extremely Concerned' About Russian Crime

TA2009135295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Sep 95 p A7

[Report by Re'uven Shapira]

[FBIS Translated Text] Organized Russian crime linked to Russian Mafia organizations has been intensifying its operations in Israel over the last two years and is taking on alarming dimensions, thus obliging Israel Police to make special preparations. This information was given yesterday to Police Minister Moshe Shahal during a working visit to the Police National Unit for Serious Crimes Investigations, in which a special unit for dealing with international crime — especially Russian crime in Israel and its international connections — was established several months ago.

There are at least three organized crime groups operating in Israel today in which dozens of Russian criminals are involved. These groups work in close cooperation with Russian Mafia organizations and prominent criminals from Russia and the CIS who have extensive international connections. The Russian crime groups in Israel are characterized by internal organization, a strict hierarchy, and well-organized work patterns, including a clear distribution of roles — as is the case in large crime organizations throughout the world. They also have elements that supervise the financial aspects of the operations and who are in charge of receiving the profits.

The briefing given to Shahal by the heads of the national unit detailed the operational structures of Russian organized crime in Israel, including its economic growth and its takeover of legal businesses. Over the last few years Russian criminals in Israel have purchased businesses and companies in the financial and real estate sectors. They have also made inroads in Russian-language media and forged links with elements who intend to become involved in political activity in Israel.

According to information obtained by the Police, which has recently received corroboration, Russian criminal elements linked to the Russian Mafia intend to run candidates for Knesset elections and may even financially support and control a party that will run in the elections. The minister was informed about many cases in which non-Jewish Russian criminals have entered Israel with the help of false documents. Through the counterfeit documents, these criminals manage to obtain Israeli citizenship and passports, which enable them to operate worldwide without spending much time in Israel.

Over the last few years, criminals from Russia and the CIS have muscled their way into many crime spheres in Israel, including massage parlors, prostitution, gambling, drug trafficking, fraud, and various counterfeit operations.

After having been briefed by Assistant Commander Yoram Rodman, head of the National Unit for Serious Crimes Investigations, Commander Yosi Levi, head of the Criminal Investigations Department, and his deputy, Assistant Commander Avi Kohen, Minister Shahal said he is extremely concerned about the picture depicted and the bleak forecast concerning the inroads made by Russian crime in Israel. "It looks and sounds much more serious and much worse than I had imagined," Shahal said. "I did not realize the magnitude of their operations. It transpires that there is nothing accidental in the Russian crime activity. We can see here a method that bears the signs of organized crime and has extensive foreign connections."

Signing of Police Pact With Amman 'Postponed'

TA1909170695 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 19 Sep 95

[Communicated by Erik Bar-Chen, Police Foreign Press Liaison, in Jerusalem on 19 September]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The signing ceremony for the cooperation agreement between the Israeli and Jordanian police forces, originally scheduled for Thursday, 21.09.95, at Beyt Gavri'el, has been postponed until further notice.

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Regime Said Dissatisfied With U.S. Military Aid

JN2009153895 Amman AL-NIDA' in Arabic 20 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. aid to Jordan amounting to $100 million, which represents military equipment the U.S. Administration had earlier promised to Jordan if it signed a peace treaty with Israel, is facing great difficulties which would obstruct the approval of this aid by the U.S. Congress.

Differences in the U.S. Congress over this aid are centered on the issue of who should pay for the services of transporting the military equipment from U.S. military stockpiles in Europe. These services cost $60 million.

The Jordanian Government says it cannot pay the cost of transporting the military equipment, because the state budget cannot afford paying the aforementioned sum.

The government expresses dissatisfaction with such kind of aid, especially since it seeks to obtain new equipment and weapons which would contribute to modernizing the army and to reinforcing its capabilities in all fields.

It is worth mentioning that U.S. military aid to Jordan has thus far been limited to light vehicles, spare parts, and military uniforms.

Invitation To Israel Boycott Meeting Rejected

JN2109082695 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 21 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan has turned down an invitation from the Syrian Government to attend the meeting of the officers of the Arab Boycott of Israel Bureau scheduled to be held in Damascus early October.

Answering a question on this invitation, an official source in the Finance Ministry said that Jordan had rejected four previous invitations to attend the conference because its relations with Israel are based on the peace treaty which Jordan cannot bypass or ignore according to international law.

The source added: Jordan is aware that the Arab boycott of Israel has inflicted losses on the Israeli economy estimated by the FINANCIAL TIMES at more than $40 billion, but we still cannot attend the conference.

Official Jordanian sources say that five Arab states have been regular attendants of conferences pertaining to the boycott. These are Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Libya, and Palestine.

IAF Appeals to Mubarak To Halt Brotherhood Trial

JN2009123595 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Sep 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) party Tuesday appealed to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to stop a trial of nearly 50 members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and to free those in detention.

"The media have reported that 50 leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood are facing a military court trial for no crime they committed," said a statement by the IAF's members in Parliament.

The people on trial include former parliament members, members of professional associations, merchants, teachers, engineers and al- Azhar scholars who "are quite known for their wisdom and their honesty and initiative in charity activities," the statement said.

It said that various denominations and communities in Egypt—both Muslim and Christian—as well as leftists, nationalists and Islamists have expressed their condemnation of the trial and are actually defending the Muslim Brotherhood members in court.

"The IAF deputies, acting out of their love for Egypt, their keenness on safeguarding its future and out of their deep faith in the right of all citizens to exercise their rights of expression to serve the nation within the laws, view the trials with deep concern because these trials do not serve the interests of the people of Egypt or the country's stability and its future," the statement said.

Asserting that the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt "has always abided by the principles of wisdom and constructive dialogue," the statement said: "It is the right of this group to contribute to the construction of Egypt through political activity conducted within the law. Depriving the group of the right of free expression constitutes an infringement on its basic human rights and also an encroachment on the Egyptian people's rights as it deprives the nation of the benefit of the Muslim Brotherhood's efforts to alleviate the Egyptian people's sufferings. It is also an encroachment on democracy."

The statement said that the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt "has, for the past several decades, proved that it renounces violence and proved that its members work for Egypt and the Egyptian people with no discrimination and free of fanaticism or bigotry. But the group has constantly been subjected to unjust treatment and attempts to distort its impeccable image.

"Such unjust treatment of the Muslim Brotherhood members can only fuel extremism and cause an em-

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barrassment to the advocates of wisdom and gradual reform."

The statement said: "Such trials can only drive people into despair over the prospect of employing peaceful means to bring about reform and would lead to security problems which in turn could deprive Egypt of the right investment climate needed to end its economic plight."

The statement called on President Husni Mubarak to immediately release the prisoners.

Al-Kabariti Denies Statement on Iraq Regime

JN2109085395 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Sep 95 p 20

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, PETRA — Foreign Minister 'Abd- al-Karim al-Kabariti has said the statement attributed to him and published in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH was distorted and published in an absolutely inaccurate manner.

In a statement to a correspondent for the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, al-Kabariti denied saying anything in that interview about the future of Iraq or changing the Iraqi regime. He also denied saying anything about General Husayn Kamil.

Opposition Split on Government 'Deal'

MM2009131595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Disagreements Erupt Inside Jordanian Islamic Action Front"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — An informed source in the Jordanian Islamic Action Front party has disclosed that disagreements have erupted in the party ranks since the ruling passed by the Jordanian High Court recently vis-a-vis mosque imams. This is in addition to disagreements over whether or not to participate in the Jordanian Government. The source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the disagreements classify the party's leaders and deputies into hard-liners and moderates as regards a number of issues.

The Jordanian authorities had offered Action Front deputies the opportunity to participate in the current government, but the majority turned down the offer on the basis of the principle of refusing to deal with Israel because of the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty. There is now talk of participating in a new government said to be being formed in Jordan.

The source said that party Secretary General Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan and a number of the party's other officials believe that the participation of Islamic party figures or deputies is essential at this stage in order to influence government decisions and would reduce the dangers of the treaty. The hard-line wing in the party believes that there must be no participation in the government under any circumstances and whatever the justifications, proceeding from the principle of "not dealing with the Israeli enemy" as represented in the treaty. The hard-liners intensified their rejection to the point that influential Islamic party figures issued a fatwa forbidding participation in the government under any circumstances.

Although the disagreements over the government remained concealed for a while, they became public after the Jordanian High Court passed its ruling a week ago annulling the Awqaf Ministry's decision to prevent Islamic Action Front preachers from delivering sermons at mosques. The ruling excluded at least three from the decision: Dr. Ahmad al-Kufahi, Deputy 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zanat, and Deputy Dr. Hammam Sa'id, who all belong to the hard-line wing. Accusing their moderate colleagues, these preachers said that the court ruling was the outcome of a deal between the party leadership and the government.

The source ruled out this accusation, however, saying that it conflicted with reality and the Jordanian judiciary's independence. Especially as the party's Executive Bureau had decided to suspend the membership of Deputy Dr. Hammam Sa'id and Deputy Shaykh 'Abd-al- Mun'im Abu-Zanat and then issued a warning to Deputy Dr. Ahmad al- Kufahi, saying that the reasons for the decision were organizational, not political. For their part, the three deputies declined to comment on the decision to suspend their membership or on the warning, saying that it was premature to comment on that. Dr. Sa'id Hammam said: If this is true, it conflicts with my membership of the party's Shura Council, which is the quarter authorized by the party to make such a decision.

Paper Notes Renewed Warmth in Ties With Gulf

JN2009175695 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Sep 95 p 1, 28

[Editorial: "Jordanian-Gulf Relations Along the Road of Continuous Improvement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Gulf Cooperation Council states' decision to participate in the Amman economic summit sparks optimism in the possibility of overcoming the state of fragmentation and estrangement that has dominated Arab relations during the past five years in a manner that would restore Arab solidarity, brotherhood, and accord.

This decision, as well as the statements by His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, on the

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continuous improvement of his country's relations with Jordan, indicate the return of warmth to Jordanian-Gulf relations.

Undoubtedly, the breakthrough in our relations with the sisterly Gulf states is the fruit of Jordan's active and persistent efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere and bridge the gap that alienated brothers in the wake of the destructive Gulf earthquake.

The Saudi minister said he will visit Amman next month and the Saudi ambassador at the Royal Hashemite Court will return to his post in the near future. This will pave the way for the upcoming Jordanian-Saudi summit, which will definitely mark a new era of relations between the two countries and fraternal peoples and usher in a new era of joint Arab action.

Jordan, which welcomes brothers and kinsfolk with open arms, cannot but hail these positive indications and renew its determination to exert all efforts for the sake of protecting Arab rights and securing a better future for the nation and coming generations. This has always been the cornerstone of our national and pan-Arab policy.

Paper on Israeli 'Threat' to Economic Summit

JN2109094895 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 21 Sep 95 p 17

[Editorial: Surprising Statements By Chief of Israeli Chambers of Commerce Union"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a recent statement to the press, the chief of the Israeli Chambers of Commerce Union has said that not signing a trade agreement with Jordan jeopardizes the Amman economic summit.

This statement has specific implications for the Israeli private sector. It is meant to underscore the need to sign a trade agreement between Jordan and Israel as soon as possible. Not signing this agreement means that Israel will throw its weight around and employ all the resources of the Israeli lobby to undermine the Amman economic summit.

Jordan is committed to the signing of this trade agreement and believes that efforts should be made to reach it, since it is a pivotal aspect of the peace treaty. The chief of the Israeli Chambers of Commerce Union is well aware that for Jordan peace is a strategic option and a firm conviction. The fact that a trade agreement was not signed last May in accordance with the peace treaty does not affect the substance of the peace process and the plan to sign this agreement.

Saying that not signing this agreement would jeopardize the Amman economic summit reflects a a pre-peace treaty mentality. This statement also contradicts post-treaty behavior. In addition, this statement contradicts the spirit of the peace process and the efforts to bolster peace and find a new Middle East formula. This formula should have its own perspectives, dimensions, and objectives and should seek to achieve security, cooperation, development, and progress for all peoples in the region.

Perhaps the Israeli Chambers of Commerce Union is eager to sign the trade agreement quickly or to draw up the broad outlines of it. However, this eagerness should focus on the positive aspects which could help in removing the obstacles that delayed the signing of this agreement.

It is strange and quite surprising that this unintentional delay, which has its own justifications, should be used as an excuse by the Israeli Chambers of Commerce Union to threaten the Amman economic summit. This threat is unacceptable.

The Israeli private sector is a main foundation for promoting cooperation with Israel, since the next stage is for the private sector, rather than the public sector. If the Israeli private sector has this mentality, then how can we build a strategy for cooperation in the future?

This question is worthy of contemplation.

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Buwayz: U.S. Decision on Travel Insufficient

NC1909172995 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Before leaving Beirut for Cairo to take part in the Arab League regular session, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz stated that this session will discuss some extraordinary matters in addition to the fixed topics, including the issue of the south, Lebanese detainees in Israeli jails, and ways to support Lebanon.

Buwayz commented on U.S. measures to curb restrictions on travel to Lebanon by allowing U.S. nationals to travel after obtaining written permission from the state department. He remarked that this is a positive step, although it is modest and insufficient.

[Begin Buwayz recording] We view this decision as a step. We expect it to be followed by other steps to reach logical, ordinary relations between Lebanon and the United States. [end recording]

Commenting on the Lebanese Government's refusal to receive the Palestinians deported from Libya, Buwayz said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] This decision was dictated by the circumstance surrounding the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya. These circumstances make it inevitable for the state to safeguard its economic, political, and security interests. Moreover, we have to verify the documents they carry. I believe officials in charge of the matter the Interior Ministry are seriously trying to find solutions for the existing problems. [end recording]

Nasrallah Glad If 'No American Comes' as Tourist

NC2109064695 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has expressed the hope that Americans will not flock to Lebanon as tourists. He said: Let the Lebanese Government forgive us. We reject begging from U.S. officials by Lebanese ministers, who travel to and from the United States. We are not servile so ministers should not beg. We do not accept our rulers humiliating us to this extent.

He said: We are glad, not sad, if no American comes to Lebanon. He added: Some officials' interest in trivialities regarding the United States, its decisions, and stances is a national insult. If there is a people, authority, and honor, they must feel insulted by the U.S. talk of lifting the ban on travel to Lebanon.

Nasrallah was speaking at a ceremony held by Hizballah and the inhabitants of Brital to mark three days since the death of al- Hajjah Umm 'Ali Mazlum, wife of Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli.

Nasrallah said: If removing the description of terrorism from us requires that we abandon our Islam, Resistance, weapons, willpower, and courage in rejecting U.S. hegemony, it is more honorable for us if we declare to the Americans that we are terrorists forever. We adhere to the course of the martyrs—the course of 'Abbas al-Musawi—from a position of responsibility. This course is the great hope that can bring victory to the nation.

Palestinian Camps in North Protest Libya's Expulsions

NC2109092195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian refugee camps in north Lebanon witnessed a general strike today and shops and schools closed at the invitation of the command of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces. Tires were burned at the main entrances to the camps to protest Libya's expulsion of Palestinian workers.

Popular committees centers in the al-Barid and al-Baddawi camps distributed a statement in the name of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces, urging Libya to reverse its decision.

Libyan Diplomat Cited on Palestinians' Deportation

NC2009170795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ashur al-Furtas, secretary of the Arab Libyan brotherhood office in Lebanon, has emphasized that the deportation of Palestinians from Libya will be dealt with from a humane and brotherly perspective. He remarked that there is continuous consultation with the Palestinians and that the Palestinians have not been targeted.

In an interview with Qatari newspaper AL-WATAN, he said what happened was no more than a rearrangement and organization of the labor force in Libya.

Writer Criticizes Government on Deportation Issue

NC1909183895 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 15 Sep 95 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Talal Salman: "A Crime Against the Lebanese Before the Palestinians"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The remaining vestiges of the "state" in Lebanon are only police decisions and measures.

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The institutions have withered and faded away. The fires of confessionalism have devoured the features of "the republic's democratic, parliamentary system."

The principle of election has been withdrawn from circulation; the remaining option is a choice between extension [reference to proposals to extend the president's term] and appointment.

"Politics" has disappeared as a competition among the various streams, ideologies, positions, and opinions. The government has given itself the prerogative of compulsory guardianship over its citizens, whom it considers minors, banning demonstrations, strikes, and even complaints against deteriorating living conditions.

Security before bread. Security, first and last.

According to the logic of security, public liberties are a form of chaos threatening stability. Opposition is an act of sabotage against economic revival. Any attempt to discuss the Election Law or administrative divisions becomes a minefield strewn with inflammatory sectarian and denominational arguments that effectively kill the discussion. To deny the public's right to self-expression, the government uses the argument that undisciplined discussion that is not committed to the "national covenant" might ruin domestic peace and renew the civil war.

Placing security considerations above all else, it is possible to exploit Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's hideous error against expatriate Arab, particularly Palestinian, workers in Libya to cover up a political and humanitarian sin that harms Lebanon and its citizens more than it harms those who were stranded in Lebanon as a result of the Arab defeat by the Zionist project. Here they have lived since 1948, when they were given official documents recognizing them as human beings and enabling them to travel from and back to Lebanon in search of a livelihood.

An issue is now made out of the affair and is thrown to the public to provoke sectarian instincts and dark memories of the brutal war. The Palestinians do not lose only the remnants of their "refugee rights", which the "state" refuses to define clearly anyway, and hence refuses to recognize, but also their humanity. The vultures of oneupmanship and the exploiters of the al-Ta'if politics vie with each other in tearing the flesh of those "orphans" who are without protector, backer, or any local Arab, or international authority that can speak on their behalf.

Warlike declarations are made about the impending "Palestinian invasion." The cabinet turns into something resembling a "national security council" or a "martial law council." Some people who became ministers by the luck of the draw or because they are good hypocrites begin making statements insulting the nation's history, struggles, and wounds. Instructions are sent to embassies and airline offices ordering that the "Palestinian plague" be prevented from seeping into Lebanon by land, sea, or air. The public security apparatus is given a free hand to deal with this era's greatest tragedy, a tragedy that the international community has failed to heal or obliterate.

The government, which is supposed to enshrine "Lebanon's Arabhood," goes further in its cruelty to the Palestinians and in its contempt for their humanity than the greatest symbols of isolationism, such as Bashir al-Jumayyil, ever did. That prominent symbol of sectarian hegemony and of the brutality of the militias, whose direct links with Israel carried him to the post of president with the help of Israeli tanks, never demanded of the Palestinians residing in Lebanon more than to be law-abiding and to pay their electricity and telephone bills.

The "al-Ta'if government," however, the government supposedly allied with Syria to demonstrate its commitment to pan-Arabism, denies the Palestinians' right to life.

Lebanese embassies abroad, airline offices, Beirut International Airport, and other border entry points witness daily the shameful human tragedies that have terrible political implications. Here a wife cannot join her husband, there sons cannot return to their families. Those returning on vacation cannot return to where they came from. Those leaving the country to look for honest work abroad, after having great difficulty obtaining an exit visa, cannot be sure that they will be able to return to their homes with their hard-won earnings. This happens at a time when no middle-income household is without a Sri Lankan or Filipina maid and foreign workers flock to the country from all corners of the earth.

Even if we set aside pan-Arab duty and natural humanitarian feeling, what kind of Lebanon is it whose "state" renounces documents issued by itself and bearing its own stamps in line with international treaties and agreements?

What kind of pan-Arabism is this that tramples on the dignity of a Palestinian residing in Lebanon since his birth and disregards his simple rights, if not as a brother, then at least as a refugee?

In what is Lebanon imitating Syria if it does not emulate Syria's treatment of Palestinians as equal to its own citizens in everything except national identity and voting rights?

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How does that compare with this dirty exploitation of these victims who are left to their own fate in a country the majority of whose population is made up of groups of "refugees," asylum seekers, and those given its precious citizenship for cheap sectarian and political considerations?

These unfair, unjustifiable, and unacceptable measures are an insult to "the Lebanese individual" and so-called "Lebanese values."

It is a crime against Lebanon as a "state," or what is left of a state. It is a crime against the Lebanese citizen, or what is left of him.

Those who remain silent about this crime are accomplices to it. They are no different from those who stoke the fires of sectarianism in an attempt to cover up the whole affair.

In view of this crime, it is no honor for any citizen to carry the citizenship of a country that does not respect its own commitments and stalks those who carry its own official documents in order to torment them for no crime they have committed except being Palestinian.

This is a more serious crime than "normalization."

It is a gratuitous service to the Israeli project which includes, among other things, the humiliating Camp David, Gaza-Jericho, and the royal Wadi al-'Arabah agreements.

Al-Qadhdhafi's error is no excuse but a pretext. It is clear that this police state was waiting for the smallest sign in order to perpetrate this disgraceful act that is an assault on the Lebanese citizens' dignity, Arabhood, and humanity before being a punishment to the Palestinians because they have not yet joined the Israeli project.

Is this crime necessary to make an extension of the presidential term possible?

Fadlallah on Prospects for Negotiations With Israel

NC2009172795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Shiite leader] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said any Israeli attack on Syria and any escalation of the war in Lebanon will turn the settlement process upside down.

He added that it is not in the interest of the United States, Israel, or their allies in the Arab world for the situation to escalate to this level. He noted that the negotiations could stall because Israel currently sees no political or electoral necessity to reach decisive results in the negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

Israeli Soldier Killed in Hizballah Attack

NC1909142195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1315 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to security sources in Marj 'Uyun, an Israeli soldier was killed today in a new Hizballah attack against the area occupied by Israel in south Lebanon.

A Hizballah statement announced that one of its groups detonated an explosive device close to the international border in the al-'Udaysah-al-Tayyibah area in the central sector of the border strip at 1430 today.

This morning Hizballah carried out another operation which, according to Israeli military sources, wounded two Israeli soldiers. A Hizballah statement about that operation said that four had been wounded.

Bomb Targeted Israeli Engineering Unit

NC1909165595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1220 today, the men of the Resistance detonated an explosive device as enemy troops were assembled at the scene of morning clashes. According to reports confirmed by security sources, the explosion killed one Israeli soldier and wounded another.

Sources in the Islamic Resistance have said the device contained some 200 kg of TNT and that it targeted officers in the engineering corps in the enemy's army who were inspecting the road of Rabb-al-Thalathin-al-'Udaysah. The officers were directly hit and their bodies were seen torn apart.

Ambulances rushed to the area immediately and removed the bodies from the scene. Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters overflew the region in concentrated sorties.

The Resistance sources have said that the Israeli occupation troops brought a big military force to the region and directed artillery fire at the township of Qabrikha and the area around it. The bombardment later extended to Wadi al-Saluqi and was coupled with concentrated helicopter sorties. The men of the Resistance opened ground fire at the helicopters.

In a related development, the Amal Movement's operation room has said that the occupation troops conducted a landing attempt between the townships of Qabrikha and Majdal Silm. The movement said that a group of the Islamic Resistance Regiments stopped the attempt and forced the unit to retreat behind enemy lines.

Enemy warplanes overflew the south, conducting mock raids over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah. The planes drew the Lebanese Army's anti-aircraft fire.

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In the afternoon, the Israeli helicopters overflew the liberated areas in the central sector of the occupied border strip. The enemy troops reportedly brought reinforcements to the al-Dabshah and 'Ali al-Tahir positions.

Hizballah Denies Israeli Planes Bombed Positions

LD2009124995 Tehran IRNA in English 1228 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Sept. 20, IRNA — The Lebanese Hizballah sources, Wednesday in a contact with IRNA correspondent in Beirut, denied the Zionist regime's claim of bombing Hizballah positions.

Zionist radio reported on Wednesday that its warplanes pounded Hizballah positions in southern Lebanon and all returned to their bases safely.

Israeli Planes Attack Hizballah Positions

NC2109110995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Four Israeli F-15 planes fired air-to-surface missiles at Resistance [Hizballah] positions in Birkat Haydar and Jabal Abu-Rashid in Western al-Biqa' at 1230 today. There are no reports of casualties as yet.

At 0900 today a pilotless Israeli reconnaissance plane flew for 30 minutes over the contact line in the eastern sector.

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'Progress' in Hebron Talks Means 'Fresh Concessions'

JN1909154995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1142 GMT 19 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The Israelis are talking about progress in the negotiations on the future of Hebron currently being held between 'Arafat and Peres. Lessons drawn from past events have taught us that such progress will turn to be, in the final analysis, nothing more than fresh concessions made by the self-rule authority. Throughout the self-rule expansion talks, Israeli negotiators have not responded to any of the natural rights of the Palestinian people. The [Palestinian] authority was the party that made many concessions.

The problem of Hebron lies in the presence of 400 Jewish settlers amid more than 120,000 Arab citizens. Logic stipulates that these settlers should be evacuated, especially since they represent a serious hotbed for provocation and tension and were responsible for the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre which shocked the world. Nevertheless, Israel holds fast to the settlers' presence and uses this presence as a pretext to maintain its occupation troops and subject the city to its direct control.

In sum, Israel is making the life and future of 120,000 Arabs contingent on 400 settlers charged with rancor, racism, and aggressiveness. It asks the self-rule authority to approve of this situation.

The Jerusalem issue is another example of Israeli haughtiness. As is known, the Tel Aviv rulers constantly say that Jerusalem is their eternal capital and that it will never be subject to negotiations and that they will press ahead with changing its features and demographic status. Given that there are more than 150,000 Palestinian citizens in the occupied Arab Jerusalem — who Israel cannot ignore — the creative thinking of Tel Aviv's rulers worked out a miserable compromise by allowing these citizens to take part in the self-rule council elections via mail. This means that Palestinians residing in Jerusalem will cast their ballots via mail without having the right to run for elections. They can vote but they cannot be elected.

The irony is that the self-rule authority accepted this compromise. It should be noted that Israel has laid its hand on 80 percent of the West Bank lands and on 80 percent of its water resources, that Jerusalem will remain separated from the West Bank and subject to Israeli laws, that Hebron will be subject to direct occupation, that the Israeli army will not withdraw from the West Bank but will rather redeploy its troops to control the territories, roads, and borders, and that security and sovereignty are in the hands of Israel. Thus it is clear that the self-rule authority has shrunk to a large extent since the Oslo agreement and that it will not have more authorities than those of former mayors.

Is this the solution that has been sought by the Palestinian people, Arabs, and the international community? Where is peace in light of all of these developments? What is the fate of the Security Council resolutions, which do not permit occupation or annexation and urge a full Israeli withdrawal? Where are the rights of the Palestinian people? Will this settlement be convincing for a single Palestinian or Arab citizen, be he in the east or west of the Arab homeland?

Signatories of the Oslo agreement shoulder a great responsibility for making things reach the current situation because they violated Arab coordination and the bases of a just solution and pushed toward secret negotiations with Israel, ending up with the Oslo agreement and a series of humiliating concessions. However, Israel is also equally responsible for the current situation. It dealt a severe blow to the goal of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East through this lame and denounced settlement.

Israel's sleazy maneuvers on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and continuous acts of aggression against southern Lebanon convinced those who were not convinced yet that Israel and peace are two extremes that can never meet and that it is forging ahead with its plans of expansion, aggression, and hegemony. This contradicts the international consensus on establishing a just peace that secures the rights and security of all.

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Afghanistan

Taleban: Fighting in Kabul To Start 'Very Soon'

LD2009140195 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mulla Abdorrahman Zahed, in charge of the Taleban office in Peshawar, told the SHAHADAT newspaper that very soon fighting would start in Kabul and the fighting will be short and sharp. Answering a question from SHAHADAT, he said: With the capturing of Herat, Taleban has become very strong whereas the Kabul administration has suffered a heavy blow and its forces have lost morale completely. [Passage indistinct]

Foreign Ministry Sends Letter to UN Special Envoy

LD2009225795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Sep 95

["Text" of Foreign Ministry note to the UN special envoy for Afghanistan on 20 September — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having expressed wishes for your success and with compliments at the outset of your new peace mission, the Afghan Foreign Ministry notes that this round of your efforts occurs a short time after a very serious and dangerous change; that is, the occupation of parts of western Afghanistan by the Pakistani militias and the mercenary forces called the Taleban group. As a consequence of this development, interference has turned into open aggression. Our official view is that after this important development, the situation has become completely different than it used to be. This we conveyed to the UN secretary general in letters dated 6 and 14 September 1995. In those letters we set out the stance of Afghanistan in this respect. The developments in Herat and its impact on the public opinion in the country and [words indistinct] of the unpleasant incident in the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul were also stated in the letters. Taking into account the extent of the danger of the continuation of the occupation of parts of country's west and southwest and its grave and dangerous impact on peace and security in the region, it was brought to his attention that now this matter must be placed at the top of the talks agenda as regards the fate of Afghanistan, among them the new round of your peace mission. [Words indistinct] contrary to the expectation to the people and the government of Afghanistan, the new situation has entered the already existing tension in the relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan into a new level of tension. [Passage indistinct]

Through this diplomatic approach I would like to manifest my documents. We are of the opinion that your new peace efforts will come out of the present stalemate and achieve a goal and lead to understanding in our war-stricken country, when on top of the previous measures by the special envoy, which included different aspects, the realities shall be taken into account.

Even before the recent events in the west of the country, about the origin of this newly emerged phenomena, we raised questions which were not answered by the special envoy on different occasions. For example, we queried Taleban's source of millions of dollars of military and logistic expenditures. But the special envoy described the Taleban as an important element in the peace process while failing to offer an answer to this [words indistinct]. As a result, it is now being noticed that this creature of Pakistan has not only been an element that was bad for peace but also disrupted peace and calm in Herat, which was described by you on many occasions as a model of a sound administration. They turned an independent and tranquil city into one that is occupied by foreigners, chaotic, and unpeaceful. This leads us to believe that not only was this group not an element of peace and stability but also, as was predicted, it proved to be an unstabilizing element.

They are the elements who has faced the territorial integrity of Afghanistan with a serious danger besides disrupting peace in the west of the country.

We also asked you to take a clear and frank stance on the issue of foreign interference as the real cause of the Afghan crisis. But unfortunately, this request was not heeded, and as a result, foreign interventionists became so audacious as to embark on the occupation of some parts of the Afghan territory by directly sending militia backed by air and ground forces.

This, despite our request for the special envoy to maintain their absolute neutrality vis-a-vis the belligerent parties as international mediators, was the only way the special envoy could have enjoyed all parties equal confidence for a successful discharge of his mission. Yet again, with emphasis, we mention that the special envoy's past stance had not demonstrated the observance of this principle.

From the practical point of view, in our opinion, the best logical approach for peace and the creation of a feasible climate for a peaceful transfer of power to a suitable elected government, is, in the first instance, the removal of the crisis in confidence created as a result of Pakistan's aggression. Foreign interference should be eliminated and Afghanistan's territorial integrity must be restored by ending the state of occupation.

To achieve the above objectives, we propose the following practical steps:

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1. As the people's will is the source of national sovereignty, hence the observance and respect to the will and the wish of the overwhelming majority of the people must be embodied in your program as the main factor for the solution of issues relevant to the country's fate;

2. [Words indistinct] The issue of ending the state of occupation in the country's southwestern region must be regarded as a factor for reducing the tension;

3. While the Islamic State of Afghanistan is announcing that it is fully ready, as before, for the transfer of power to legal and trustworthy bodies under suitable conditions within the framework of a peace program that has already been announced, Afghanistan is of the opinion that the UN special envoy, instead of choosing the means for the objective should choose the objective. He must keep in mind that the final objective is the creation of peace and the transfer of power;

4. Because of the new situation and in particular Pakistan's direct aggression, [words indistinct] Afghanistan is now formally regarding Pakistan as the opposite side to the present dispute and the main factor for the fighting and disagreement. One of the effects of the aggression is that the rulers of Pakistan have now lost the confidence of the Afghan Government and people they had earlier enjoyed. Therefore we request that the special envoy must pay attention to the point that henceforth Pakistan can no longer play, as before, the role of mediator to the issues between Afghans;

5. Because of the creation of the new situation, no formal meeting can be convened outside the territory of Afghanistan, especially in the territory of Pakistan, for finding a solution to the issue;

6. On his present mission, we request his excellency (?to alter) his previous stance, which was to treat all groups equal, as some groups are no longer in existence [words indistinct] and not to ignore the painful cry of the overwhelming majority of the Afghan nation who have just perceived the danger to the territorial integrity of their homeland;

7. Referring to paragraph 4, resolution N0 208/49 of the UN General Assembly which recommends good offices of the special envoy to stop foreign interference. The serious action of Pakistan's aggression to a section of Afghanistan's territory, arousing the feelings of millions of Afghans inside and outside the country, has been confronted by silence of the special envoy. We hope the special envoy declares a clear stance regarding this situation, and thus breaking the stalemate of his mission by enjoying further confidence of the people of Afghanistan. [Passage indistinct]

[Signed] Ministry of Foreign Affairs

[Dated] Kabul, 20 September 1995

UN Envoy Leaves Kabul After Meeting With Mas'ud

LD2009172495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud this afternoon met at his residence Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general.

At this meeting talks were held on Afghanistan's issues and the UN role in ending foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

According to another report, Mr. Mestiri, after carrying out talks with Afghan authorities, left Kabul this afternoon for Islamabad. At Kabul airport he was seen off by Foreign Ministry officials.

India

Spokesman Says Western Hostages in Kashmir Safe

BK2009151395 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The four Western tourists, who have been held by militants in Jammu and Kashmir, are safe, according to information provided by the intermediaries helping the state authorities in maintaining contact with the abductors. An official spokesman, while briefing newspersons in Srinagar today, said the latest contact with the abductors was made last night.

Column Hails Growing Relations With PRC

BK2009125795 Varanasi AJ in Hindi 4 Sep 95 p 6

[From the "Current Affairs" column by Shashi Shekhar: "A New Dawn in the Sino-Indian Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The defeat of the Indian forces at the hands of China's Red Army has been one of the most distressing events in the history of independent India. By winning that war, China had occupied about 36,000 square miles of Indian territory. At that time, our Parliament had taken a vow in one voice that the people of India would rest only after their lost land is retaken. Undoubtedly, this matter affected India's self-respect and the entire country was united on this. Since then much water has flowed down the Ganges river, but the situation remains the same. The vow, too, has become a part of history. However, that tragic event continued to torment the minds of the general Indian public. This is an astonishing truth that the Indians, who are believed to be the men with dull memories, could

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not forget that setback and continued to regard China as their real enemy.

I nursed the same feeling as my countrymen about China. However, when I was touring the interior areas of Manipur and Nagaland in January this year, I got the opportunity to come face-to-face with a pleasant truth. The security force officers fighting with the blood-spilling torch-bearers of terrorism and separatism in that region informed me that while the Pakistani Inter Services Intelligence and the international drug mafia support the Naga, Kuki or Meitei terrorists, China does not provide any kind of assistance and patronage to them. Why? I asked. Their answer almost stunned me.

They said China has been opposing anti-India activities right after 1960's. On many occasions, the ringleaders of several terrorist groups tried to seek China's support. They even illegally crossed into China, but the Chinese did not show any sympathy to them. They were either shot and killed or were thrown into jail for life. This information made me contemplate: Are not we Indians faithless like a parrot which shifts to cool indifference from cordiality in moments? We did not forget our old enmity with China, but, at the same time, we also did not pay attention to the current of events that was changing the face of the globe.

Many developments after the Sino-Indian war forced China to change its attitude. Right in the 1960's, the United States had become eager to establish friendship with China, setting aside its old enmity with Beijing. Then U.S. President Nixon personally visited Beijing, and buried all past animosities. [passage omitted]

When the Sino-U.S. relations began to deepen, the Soviet Union started to pay more attention to India. The reason was clear. As the United States wanted to have a friend on the Soviet borders, the Soviet Union wanted a sympathizer on the Chinese borders. The Soviet Union played an excellent role in the modernization of the Indian Armed Forces and India soon developed into a regional power. The Chinese political leaders missed no time in understanding that animosity with India was not in their own interest. Nevertheless, in keeping with its traditional behavior, China did not extend its hands of friendship toward India, but stopped supporting separatist elements in our country, thus laying the foundation for friendship with New Delhi. However, there was no visible development in their relationship. In the meantime, there were many more developments which compelled the two countries to end their frigid ties. The Soviet Union disintegrated, bringing the Cold War to an end. Japan and South Korea emerged as new economic powers. Humanity emerged victorious in South Africa, propelling Mandela into power. This South African development proved that the supremacy of the Whites is now coming to an end in all parts of the world.

At the same time, the end of the Cold War divided the globe into two worlds — the world of the rich and the world of the poor. While the United States has been the champion of the rich world, China and India, by virtue of their population and size, have been enjoying a prominent position in the poor world or among developing countries. Consequently, both India and China have come to stand on the same platform on many issues.

In the meantime, Rajiv Gandhi took a very important initiative. He visited Beijing and held in-depth discussions with top Chinese leaders. The opposition parties in India raised a rumpus against that visit. Pursuing the politics of opposing everything that the government did, they started reminding the countrymen of the old vow that the national Parliament had taken. They made every attempt to create a furor both within and outside the Parliament when the need of the hour was to bury all hostilities. Then a question arose: If the Berlin Wall can be torn down and Russia and China can come closer, then why can't India and China forget their bitter past? When this realization dawned, Rajiv Gandhi's initiative came to be accepted as a very encouraging step. That initiative marked the beginning of a series of discussions between the top officials of the two countries. However, the talks were so slow and were held in such confidentiality that common Indians had no knowledge about them and thus, as usual, they continued to nurture a feeling of revenge against China.

Nevertheless, the Sino-Indian agreement signed in New Delhi last week has cleared the mist to a great extent. India and China have agreed to avoid eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation. The two countries will remove their military posts close to the Sumdorong Chu Valley by the end of this year. It has also been decided to check the tendency to shoot-to-death the people of the opposing country seen moving along the border and also to control firing by troops of one country upon another without any particular reason. The two sides also agreed to open a new route to Mansarover and to increase bilateral trade. The agreement may go a long way in ushering in an era of prosperity in this region. Both India and China are developing countries whose priorities, even now, are to provide food, clothing, and shelter to everyone of their citizens. Therefore, if they continue to spend about 15 percent of their income on defense, they will never be able to meet the basic needs of their people. The agreement will help in easing tension on the borders, which will in turn allow the rulers of the two countries to work in a better way to remove poverty and

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ensure social integration in their respective countries in the days to come.

While India and China share common problems, they also share common characteristic features. Since they possess a large pool of skilled labor, the Western world is compelled to do business with them. As the labor is very cheap, it takes much less money to produce things in these two countries. India and China have been strong competitors in this field so far. However, if they can achieve an understanding on this issue, they can talk with the importers on agreed terms for their mutual benefit. If this happens, it will bring back the days of prosperity for the citizens of the two countries.

Now, on the question of Indian territory still occupied by China on which the Indian Parliament had vowed to retake at all costs, it can only be said that if we cannot take anything by force, we can take it only by means; and that is by building mutual understanding through negotiations. That is exactly what the two countries are doing now.

Central Ministry Expansion Said 'Election-Oriented'

BK1909142595 Bangalore DECCAN HERALD in English 14 Sep 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Ad Hocism Again"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The expansion of the Central Ministry, coming as it does so late in the tenure of the Narasimha Rao Ministry, conveys the impression that the whole exercise was political and specifically election-oriented. The administrative needs for having a full and balanced ministry with a sound distribution of portfolios have received meager attention from Mr. Rao in the last four years. An ideal ministry is a compromise between the administrative requirements of the state and the political compulsions of the prime minister. Even now when the prime minister was considered to be planning to give a better look to the ministry, the result is disappointing. Thirteen new ministers were inducted at the middle and lower levels after five ministers were told to resign on Monday [11 September]. There are no additions at the Cabinet level where there is need for talent and experience. Those who have been inducted represent various regional, political, caste, communal, and other interests and with elections not being far away, the logic of bowing to different popular lobbies is understandable. What is less understandable is the reluctance to make use of the opportunity for effecting an intelligent reshuffle of the responsibilities of the incumbents and make changes on the basis of their performance. Mr. Rao has shown neither the political courage nor concern for good administration that is needed for such an exercise.

Wednesday's exercise might even show the prime minister as lacking in authority as it has shown him up as unable to get rid of the corrupt and the deadwood and persuade some senior ministers to leave the government and take up party work. Mr. Rao had himself made public his plan to induct some ministers for organizational work. It is also known that no senior minister wanted to do this. The failure of the prime minister to carry out his plan cannot but reflect negatively on his political and moral authority. The composition of the ministry, the periodical additions to it and the rare decisions to drop ministers had all these years been marked by ad hocism. Even when there were strong cases against ministers on the basis of improper conduct, corruption charges or inefficiency, the prime minister had desisted till the end from taking any action. Some of them who face serious charges continue to hold ministerial positions. This has not given a bright image to the Government. The latest exercise has not helped to improve it.

Former Minister Suggests Alliance Against BJP

BK2109042195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The former chief minister of Karnataka, Mr. Rama Krishna Hegde, says that Janata Dal should give up attempts to forge a third front in national politics. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, he said instead the party should join hands with the Congress-I and other secular parties in the coming general elections to prevent the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] from emerging as the single largest party.

Meanwhile, the Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, has said efforts are on to broaden the National Front-left parties alliance by including the Samajwadi Janata Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party. He said in Calcutta that the alliance should also include Akali Dal factions and the AIADMK [All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazagham].

'Dethroned' Rama Rao Seen Moving To Regain Power

BK2009095095 Hyderabad DECCAN CHRONICLE in English 14 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hyderabad, Sept. 13 — Like a wounded tiger on the prowl, the Telugu Desam patriarch, Mr N T Rama Rao, seems to have successfully tapped the second rung of the leadership of the Telugu Desam in his favour.

Thousands of people are thronging the residence of Mr Rama Rao to extend their support to the dethroned Chief

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Minister. The Banjara Hills residence of Mr Rama Rao is again a beehive of activity. The scene is reminiscent of the pre-election period.

Even as the newly-formed government, headed by Mr N Chandrababu Naidu, is making serious efforts to fit into the groove to provide a stable administration, Mr Rama Rao is deftly making his moves to resurrect the fortunes of the 'real' Telugu Desam, with his band of die-hard loyalists.

According to sources, Mr Rama Rao, after holding several closed- door meetings with his men, has divided the State into six zones and formed groups which would be despatched to their respective zones to assess the mood of the partymen and find out as to how many of them still owe allegiance to Mr Rama Rao.

Each group, which is to be sent to the districts, would consist of a legislator belonging to that particular area, who would be duly assisted by the members of the State executive committee belonging to the respective districts.

They would undertake extensive tours of their allotted zones from September 18 to 30, and thereafter submit a detailed report to Mr Rama Rao at a meeting of the State executive to be convened on September 30. The committee would then analyse the reports and based on them, would chalk out a detailed future course of action.

The first zone covers the area from Srikakulam to West Godavari, the second from Krishna to Guntur, the third comprises Rayalaseema and Mahbubnagar, the fourth and fifth cover the entire Telangana region while the sixth covers the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

Going by the developments, the mood in the Rama Rao camp seems to be upbeat as the loyal legislators and party workers are exuding confidence that Mr Rama Rao will definitely be able to pull the rug from under the feet of his 'traitors', who had used the Telugu Desam label for their political gains.

The crowds that throng Mr Rama Rao's Banjara Hills residence wait patiently outside, braving the heat and the occasional shower to seek a 'darshan' [glimpse] of their beloved 'anna' [brother]. This seems to rejuvenate Mr Rama Rao and boost his morale.

So much so that, nowadays, he appears to be a vibrant figure, contrary to his haggard, unshaven and sick look he wore at the time of the 'coup'.

Replying to a question by a group of supporters who had come in lorries from Khammam on whether he would accept his family members into the party fold, Mr Rama Rao thundered: "I don't want to see their faces again. Politics and relations are different games".

Noted film star Akkineni Nageswara Rao visited Mr Rama Rao on Wednesday [13 September] evening. Mr Rama Rao's elder son, Mr Jayakrishna, along with his wife also came to see him.

As film actor Murali Mohan, who recently resigned as Chairman of A P [Andhra Pradesh] State Film Development Corporation, was leaving the place after meeting the former Chief Minister, the crowd abused him and screamed: "Lord Ayyappa [Hindu god] has saved you or else you too would have met with the same fate like Mohan Babu at whom slippers were thrown." Mr Murali Mohan, who was attired in a black shirt and trousers, indicating his proposed visit to Sabarimala [Hindu holy place], hurriedly entered his car and left the premises before the crowd could resort to any hostile act.

The developments surely indicate that it will not be long before Mr Rama Rao makes a determined bid to turn the clock back to see that things become favourable to him.

Editorial Examines 'Threat' From Falling Rupee

BK2009075395 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 19 Sep 95 p 8

[Editorial: "And the Buck Stops Here"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Finance Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and his secretary finance have put up an inspiring performance in the face of the tumbling rupee. But not the best of stagecraft can conceal the cause for alarm on two counts, even if exporters are sitting pretty. The problem was entirely to be expected in a situation where the country was to repay $12.5 billion of overseas debt even if it was managing a certain balance on the trade front. The first problem is caused by the effect of a devalued currency, already down 7.5 per cent the stability of the 31.50 range, on foreign institutional investors and on some sections of non-resident Indians. They are critical for India's financing needs and a loss of confidence on their part has serious macroeconomic consequences. Those keen to cut their losses will be repatriating even at a loss portending a slow down in fresh inflows unless speculators consider this to be a temporary phenomenon and a worthwhile opportunity for them to reap a windfall. But speculative interest to support overall dollar inflows is not what is exactly prescribed for India. Besides, even the layman knows that inflation has a powerful imported inflationary impact and is hardly a risk the government should want to take in election

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time. There is besides, the impact of devaluation of imports which are crucial for most corporate groups now upgrading their operation with state-of-the-art imports. There is also the oil bill that experts predict will shoot up by Rs [rupees] 6,000 million with every rupee increase in the exchange rate. Each of these has the potential of upsetting all the financial calculations of the Finance Ministry whether with macroeconomic stability at home or with the management of the overseas account.

The other psychological threat that the falling rupee represents, is in exerting pressure on the foreign exchange reserves. It would not be churlish to say that the only real improvement in India's economic situation since the dark days of 1991, when the coffers were empty and there were dollars to pay for barely two weeks' imports, is the burgeoning of foreign exchange reserves, now at around $20 billion. This has been cited to external observers time and again with great advantage about the improvement in the real economy and those not quite au fair with the domestic economy have been impressed. The tumbling dollar has naturally led to the demand that the government liquidate some of the reserves which are meaningless unless they are effectively used to restore stability. Neither the government nor the Reserve Bank are quite prepared to disturb this showpiece and have chosen instead to offload the job of debt repayment on the State Bank of India [SBI], which has been left to its own resources. Since the SBI has no access to extra dollars, it has tried to work out schemes that will attract the greenback from the domestic interbank market, failing which it will have to borrow in the international centres but not draw from the Reserve Bank. In this case, the lure of a higher exchange rate has failed because those in a position to offer dollars have decided to wait for an even better rate. Others worried by the slipping rupee have bailed out. What India is currently going through is a phenomenon of higher-the-price-offered-lower-the-availability-of- dollars for reasons of loss of confidence in one source of supply and greed on the other. The simplest solution is for the Reserve Bank to step in, however temporarily. But even this has been ruled out by the finance minister who said, since "markets go up and they come down," the country must "get adjusted to the international market system." Last time Dr Singh made such a statement was while explaining the fluctuations in the stock markets just before the securities scandal was exposed. One can only hope his assessment is correct this time.

RBI Warned Against Intervention in Rupee Decline

BK2109105795 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Sep 95 p 16

[Editorial: "Measured Meddling"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The optimism exuded by the Union finance minister on a return to stability in the foreign exchange market and the assertion of the RBI [Reserve Bank of India] governor that economic fundamentals were strong enough to defend the rupee is reassuring though the rupee is unlikely to regain the position it had held for nearly two years. Importers are, however, understandably upset, for they would henceforth have to pay a larger amount of rupees for every dollar of purchases that they make abroad. Indeed, they were in part responsible for the rupee's gyrations over the last week as they rushed to buy dollars fearing further depreciation. Worries are also expressed by well-meaning people about the possible inflationary consequences of the rupee's weakening, as imports become more expensive. These fears are, to an extent, legitimate, though the suggestion offered in these quarters, namely, that the RBI intervene to arrest the decline is patently unsound. The call reflects a certain misconception about exchange rate determination in a system which the RBI is seeking to make a progressively market driven one. The value of the rupee must necessarily move up or down, depending on the demand for dollars relative to its supply. And the downward movement in recent days is much in keeping with the relative shortage of dollars for transactions primarily on the current account of the balance of payments. 1995-96 has hitherto seen imports zoom, with the trade deficit in the first four months alone widening to $1.50 billion, against $593 million in the corresponding period last year. In recent weeks, the demand for dollars has come especially from state- run oil companies to pay for oil imports.

The rupee has also no doubt been affected by the RBI's new policy of buying dollars in the market for repayments of official debt — a policy which is part of its overall one of moving towards greater market determination. And all this has happened at a time when the inflow of foreign exchange has slowed down, thereby creating a situation where demand for the dollar is tending to outstrip supply. The exchange rate movements now should help to correct this imbalance. This is, however, not to suggest that the RBI keep its hands off the forex market altogether. Intervention may be warranted particularly in the event of exchange rate changes as a sequel to excessive flows of speculative capital across the border. The instability inherent in hot money flows could potentially magnify the distortions in the current account. It is this that prompted the Apex

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bank in 1993 and 1994 to buy incoming dollars, flows that would otherwise have led to an appreciation of the rupee, with deleterious effects on exports. In the current instance, pressures have come largely from real transactions on the trade account. Any attempt by the RBI to peg the value of the rupee to a level other than that dictated by these transactions will only contribute to giving a new lease of life to the hawala [illegal money transfer from overseas] trade, with all its distortionary fallouts on the economy.

Iran

Continued Reportage on Hijacked Plane Situation

Plane Departs After 'Pressure'

LD2009184295 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Finally as a result of pressure by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Zionist regime was forced to allow the hijacked plane and its passengers to return home.

News agencies reported a few minutes ago that the Iranian plane was allowed to fly back to Iran amid strong reaction by Iran against preventing its flight by Israel. The plane and its passengers were under a military siege at an airport in the occupied Palestine for around 40 hours. [passage omitted]

Plane Enters Air Space

LD2009213795 Tehran IRNA in English 2121 GMT 20 Sep 95

["Home Sweet Home: Saga of Hijacked Iranian Plane Ends" — IRNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 21, IRNA — The hijacked Iranian airliner entered into Iran's air space after it had been kept under siege for 40 hours at an Israeli military airport, said the first deputy of Iranian civil aviation organization, Hoseyn Qasemi, here on Thursday [21 September].

He added that the Iranian passenger plane entered the Iranian air space at 00:05 local time.

According to the reports reaching here all the passengers are safe and sound.

Officials Discuss Possible Plans by Hijackers

LD2009133595 Tehran IRNA in English 1254 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA — The route chosen for a hijacked Iranian Boeing 707 passenger indicates that the hijacker or hijackers had originally intended to take the aircraft to the occupied Palestine, according to an Iranian civil aviation experts Wednesday [20 September].

The expert said that all evidences showed that while the hijacked plane flew past several countries with small and large airports, the hijacker or hijackers did not make an request for permission to land in those countries.

He said that the pilot of the hijacked plane had in his radio contacts with control tower at the Israeli Air Force base, which was broadcast by certain foreign radios, announced that the hijacker had insisted on landing in an Israeli airport.

Zionist officials and the mass media affiliated to them, he added, are trying to conceal the fact that there had been a pre- planned scheme for taking the hijacked plane to the occupied Palestine, claiming that the aircraft's landing in Israel was due to its running out of fuel, he said.

The expert said that officials of the Zionist regime have been making contradictory statements since the hijacked plane landed in the occupied Palestine, something that indicates they were seeking certain goals.

As for a claim made by the Zionist radio on the hijacker's threat to explode the plane if it would not have been given permission to land, the Iranian expert said the Israeli radio was the only source to raise such a claim.

Even the pilot of the plane in his radio contacts never mentioned anything about such a threat, he said.

Despite frequent announcements that the plane was refuelling and getting ready to return to Iran, this has not been done under vatrious excuses, he said.

However, he concluded, Iran's Civil Aviation Organization would do its best to secure the return of passengers and the hijacked plane to Iran through international communities.

Passenger Says Israel Should Hand Over Hijacker

LD2009193995 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA — Western mass media quoted Iranian passengers aboard the hijacked airliner as demanding Israeli prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin not to cooperate with the terrorist who has put the lives of almost 180 men, women and children at risk and extradite him to Iran to stand trial.

V.O.A. interviewed one passenger named Seyyed who said the experience has made him hate terrorism.

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"It is natural that no one in the world likes terrorist action. I was always against terrorism and understood in the course of the hijacking that the terrorists commit heinous acts."

Seyyed was quoted as having said that all of the passengers want to return home immediately and Israel is after exploiting the humanitarian issue for political goals.

If Israel alleged that it is against such terrorist actions, it should hand over the terrorist who had subjected the passengers to harassment. Only in this case one can judge Israeli attitude, Iranian passenger said.

Iranian passengers are suffering from the medieval-like inquisition of Israeli security agents under the direct command of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin seeking political goals.

The passengers are under heavy psychological pressure because the Israelis treat them as if they were prisoners of war.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Denies Involvement in Hijacking

NC2009164995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1632 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (MENA)—The Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization has categorically denied any involvement in the hijacking of the Iranian Boeing 707 plane to Israel yesterday.

In a statement, a copy of which was received by the MENA office in Baghdad this evening, the organization described Iranian accusations against it in this regard as "baseless".

The statement said accusations leveled at the organization by Iranian Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri earlier today are "sheer lies".

Rafsanjani Blames U.S., Israel for Hijacked Plane

LD2009180395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, at the eighth nationwide gathering of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] today, emphasized the stability and full power of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the reactive approach by the United States and its allies toward this justice-seeking and self-reliant power and said: This latest move by the enemies of the Islamic republic of Iran in hijacking of an airliner and the psychological harassment of defenseless men, women, and children under the worst circumstances, would have very negative consequences for the United States and Israel and proves to the world public opinion their false claims of opposing terrorism.

The president stressed: Contrary to the enemies' claims and accusations that some countries, including the divine and justice- seeking system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, support terrorism; by giving refuge to kidnappers and terrorists and refusing to hand over a culprit, the United States and Israel are not only perpetrating an inhuman and undiplomatic act but also encouraging others to resort to such methods.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Once again the United States has fallen victim to a hasty decision, such as the recent imposition of economic sanctions against Iran. This move, too, will result in their shame and their loss.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: If the United States and Israel have plotted the hijacking of the plane, they have resorted to the worst method. And if they seek to benefit from it, they have committed a most ugly act that will never serve their interests.

The president said: It could be the case that no-one would wish to support the Islamic Republic of Iran against this plot and terrorist move; but the world public opinion understands well that it is possible that the United States, because of its desperation in the face of an Islamic and popular government, could have resorted to such an act. This adventurism and inhuman act would be registered in the dossier of those who resort to widespread propaganda claiming that they fight terrorism. [passage omitted]

Further on Rafsanjani Remarks

LD2009200995 Tehran IRNA in English 1901 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA — President Hashemi-Rafsanjani here on Wednesday [20 September] termed hijacking of Iranian airliner by the Zionist regime as a terrorist action and contrary to the international norms.

Speaking in a meeting with the officials and the commanders of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) on the eve of the anniversary of Iraqi aggression on Iran on September 22, 1980, President Rafsanjani said the move showed to the world who the real terrorists are and in fact it foiled all anti-Iran propaganda.

The terrorist actions will not serve their interest and the hasty moves of the Israelis are doomed to fail just like that of the United States in declaring trade embargo on Iran.

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Rafsanjani said keeping silent by certain countries in the face of the terrorist event would encourage other individuals to do similar anti-human action.

He criticized the silence of certain countries towards hijacking Iranian airliner and said, "we are witnessing that how a country like Libya is suffering damage from an allegation of involvement in bombing an airliner, but the same countries now kept silent towards an outright terrorist action of hijacking."

Hijacking of Iranian airliner is a dirty action and it will remain forever as the records of the perpetrators, he stated.

He said, "extortion against a popular and justice-seeking government will not work and the world people will recognize your real nature."

He emphasized the preparedness of the armed forces especially the IRGC to defend the country.

The armed forces who have shouldered the important task in reconstruction era, should exercise defence preparedness, he said.

President Rafsanjani said the Islamic Iran has showed in the course of eight years of Iraqi-imposed war (1980-1988) that it is powerful and invincible and at the same time is not aggressor or war-monger.

"If we saw the media of the global arrogance recognized Iraq as aggressor, that is not because they observe justice, but, it was owing to the serious and powerful presence of military and popular forces at the scene especially at the last moments of the war," he said.

Khamene'i Addresses Gathering of Guard Commanders

LD2009151495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1015 GMT 20 Sep 95

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the revolution and commander in chief, at a gathering of Islamic Revolution Guard Corps commanders and officials on 20 September; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would like to welcome all you dear brothers and sisters, you dear people who took on the responsibility for one of the most sensitive duties at one of the most sensitive moments in the history of this country, and performed that duty with bravery and honor. [passage omitted]

Look at all the faith, sincerity, and devotion that was expended on the war fronts. Look at all the initiative and enthusiasm that was expended in order to make the Armed Forces self-sufficient so that we no longer have to plead with others for help. There was a time when we even had to purchase RPG shells from abroad and they would not sell them to us. That is how it was in 1359 [1980-81]. At one point, 5,000 RPG's arrived in Ahvaz; it was as if they had given the world to the people who were there.

Today, that same nation, those same young people, the same talents, the same IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps], the same army have entered into such fields as the enemy would not believe, even if it knew about it. Well, the enemy does carry out propaganda, saying: They are making the nuclear bomb, and so on. But it knows itself that this is a lie. Everyone knows this is a lie. It does not even believe it itself.

However, there are examples of progress that the enemy really does not believe — scientific and technological progress. A nation with empty hands, without any experience — a youngster sitting and building the most precise equipment — this is one of the blessings of those eight years of defense and it is now a part of the existence of the Iranian nation.

All of this forms an entire whole, a valuable whole. What is the conclusion that can be drawn from this? The conclusion is that this entire whole must be preserved for Islam and Muslims: The combatant youngster who is in the front line and who defends the front trench; the faith and spirit of his father and mother; the enthusiasm and devotion of the young boy or girl who were seen as the backbone of the revolution in their homes. [passage omitted]

Those people who, unknowingly, try to take this faith and reliance on God away from the Iranian nation do not understand what they are doing. They are weakening the pillars of this nation's independence. Could Iran have stood up to that vast onslaught without Islam, without the Islamic revolution?

You know that, in addition to that onslaught, there were many conspiracies inside the country. It was these valuable resources [the people and their faith] who saved the country. The unity of the nation must be safeguarded. The unity of the government and the nation must be safeguarded. We thank God that he has protected all of this. Try to safeguard it. [passage omitted]

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Velayati Details Foreign Policy in Interview

NC1909134295 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
3 Sep 95 p 12

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [ETTELA'AT] In the past few years friends and foes alike have conceded that our foreign policy has had dazzling successes. The great leader [Khamene'i] and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani have also referred to this point. In your opinion what are the factors behind this success?

[Velayati] The foreign policy of every country is the outward manifestation of that system and the sum total of the activities and expediencies within the country. In our capacity as employees of the Foreign Ministry we are implementers of decisions made at the highest level in our country. To elaborate further on the Foreign Ministry's role with regard to our embassies in foreign countries: We obtain information as a result of our bilateral and international relations with other countries. In brief, by using the information collected, both overt and covert, regarding various departments of foreign policy, we formulate certain plans. We submit them to the great leader, to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and to the Supreme National Security Council. Our plans are reviewed, finalized, and conveyed to us for implementation.

We are the implementers of the government's foreign policy, which in itself is unique in the world and has certain distinctive characteristics with certain merits as well as problems. If the Islamic Republic of Iran adopts a stance, then this stance has the backing of the government and the nation who have proved to the world that they wish to remain independent. They also have proved that once they have decided on any matter, they have the necessary power to implement the decision. [passage omitted]

Others cannot find any disagreement among us that could weaken us. The vast and extremely important capabilities that exist in Islam and Iran are the sources of our foreign policy's strength. Islam is present in a very important part of the world as an all- encompassing law. Muslims, who collectively comprise nearly a fourth of the world's population, and the Islamic civilization and its longstanding history with its numerous triumphs and setbacks— all these are the repository of our strength. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] In your opinion what are the problems that our foreign policy might face in the future?

[Velayati] Many of the problems that confront us on the international scene stem from Iran's power and influence in the world. The more we forge ahead with our foreign policy, the more difficulties we face and the greater are our challenges. This is because, rightly or wrongly, there are many who consider Iran their rival or adversary.

If a country wishes to cross the seas and enter the region on whatever pretext and consolidate its presence here, but perceives another strong country in the region, the former will consider the latter a potential adversary. The most conspicuous example of this is the United States. For whatever reason, the Americans have decided that they should maintain a presence in this extremely sensitive region, which has the most important oil and energy reserves of the world.

In addition to energy, other factors are used to justify their presence. When there was no oil this was still a sensitive region as it is on the confluence of the three continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa. It is in close proximity to sensitive areas of the world. The holy sites of the revealed religions are in this region and the great civilizations of the world have their roots in this region. Because of these factors, the people of these areas possess greater social and political intelligence and acumen. [passage omitted]

It is due to the distinctive sensitivity of this region that the Americans wish to have a strong foothold here and do not want another strong and independent country to exist in the region.

This is the main reason for the U.S. attitude toward Iran. If we do not keep these factors in mind it appears almost illogical as to why the United States seeks to prevent every political move that Iran wishes to make. When the Americans are questioned they make baseless and illogical remarks because they cannot defend their conduct. Thus they cannot even convince countries that are their allies. This is why the U.S. President displays much fervor and enthusiasm in Zionist gatherings and seeks to impose an international embargo on Iran.

However all this hue and cry did not yield any results. This is because the Americans do not have any plausible reason for their actions and we have many such examples of this behavior.

The Americans are exerting their greatest pressure on Russia to annul its nuclear agreement with Iran, but they have not been successful. They exerted immense pressure on the PRC so that it would not cooperate with us and that also ended in failure. Their pressure on South Africa, France, Japan, Germany, and other countries to

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review their relations with Iran did not have any effect either.

The reasons for the U.S. failure are:

First, the Americans do not provide a basis to justify their actions; second, contrary to their perception, the world is not moving toward a unipolar system. The world is moving toward a system in which countries are showing greater independence and do not wish to be part of a team. The countries have realized the proven truth, one on which they can depend: that they can stand up to the United States on the subject of Iran and their relations with it.

This means that forging relations with Iran is the secret of their being able to reject the U.S. supremacy over international diplomacy. Our other predicament in the region is Israel, a regime based on the usurpation of the homeland of others. It exerts maximum effort to neutralize Iran's activities on the political and international scene.

On the other hand, to a great extent U.S. foreign policy is under Israel's influence and a large part of the U.S. hostility toward us stems from this Zionist influence in the U.S. decisionmaking apparatus. The majority of those on the U.S. National Security Council and whose opinions have influence in the U.S. Government's decisionmaking are either Zionists or have Zionist leanings. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Most of the foreign media and the experts on political affairs consider the flight by relatives of the Iraqi president to Jordan as the beginning of important changes in Iraq. What is the Islamic Republic of Iran's concept of these developments? Will there be any significant change in Iraq in the near future?

[Velayati] It is not easy to present an opinion regarding Iraq due to the complexities of its situation. Iraq has enormous economic capabilities and has played an important role in Islamic events. There have been numerous political upheavals in that country in the past few decades. It has natural resources in agricultural and massive energy reserves.

Therefore, others will not relinquish Iraq so easily, nor will those who are ruling in Iraq be ready to give up their government. However, in general it appears that the pressure on Iraq is far greater than it ever was before. What has occurred is not a very simple phenomenon or a family squabble. We have witnessed similar occurrences in the past few years and others have acted similarly without being related to the Iraqi president's family.

Iraq's opponents are not sitting idle in the region and neither is the government in Iraq. It appears, however, that the Westerners and the United States in particular intend to step up pressure on Iraq with the assistance of some of the region's countries and this is one stage of such pressure. We believe that what has occurred is neither the first nor the last such incident. It is merely one aspect of a larger phenomenon in the making in Iraq and in the region.

The most important outcome of the actions and reactions in Iraq and the region recently is the increase in the distance between Iraq and Jordan. After the declaration of the embargo, Jordan was acting as a door for Iraq through which goods needed by Iraq entered. Whatever Iraq wished to send out of the country also went via Jordan. Now these facilities have been suspended and the pressure on Iraq has increased.

[ETTELA'AT] Is the aim of this pressure to divide the country of Iraq or to change the system of government? What is Iran's foreign policy for safeguarding the interests of the region?

[Velayati] We have frequently stated in the past that we are not in favor of the dismemberment of Iraq as it would harm the people of the country and of the region. Due to the situation created in northern Iraq, foreigners and unauthorized parties are seeking to infiltrate into the region and the various espionage apparatus of the West and other countries are trying to gain a foothold. Israel's subversive activities are the worst.

Accordingly, one of the main reasons for Iran's opposition to Iraq's dismemberment is that Iraq is an Islamic country and it is not in our interest for it to disintegrate. The more the Islamic countries are fragmented, the more the prestige of the Islamic world is undermined. It is important that the Islamic countries have such power so they can make themselves heard in the world. The greater the number of Islamic countries, the greater the effectiveness of the voice of the Islamic world is and the larger the audience it has.

Iraq is one of the important Islamic countries. How can we give our consent to the fragmentation of Iraq, which is an Islamic country? Also Iraq is our neighbor and any move to dismember Iraq would have an adverse effect on our country.

[ETTELA'AT] What is the level of Iran-Iraq relations at present and when will your excellency visit Iraq?

[Velayati] A visit took place on the level of Iranian experts to Iraq and most probably a delegation of Iraqi experts will visit Iran reciprocally. Thus, the exchanges continue in this way so it is now for the Iraqi side to visit. There is evidence that they are in favor of doing so.

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[ETTELA'AT] The issue of Persian Gulf security has not been resolved so far as there has been no consensus among the parties concerned in this regard. What is the reason?

[Velayati] The Americans do not want a consensus of opinion in the Persian Gulf even though there is an international plan in this regard. Clause eight of UN Security Council Resolution 598 pertains to regional cooperation among eight Persian Gulf countries. However, in order to justify their military presence in the region, the Americans are constantly seeking to sow discord. They have convinced some of the smaller countries in the region that Iran is their enemy and is a danger for them and therefore they claim that their presence in the region is necessary in order to create a balance in the region.

This is a very belligerent attitude as Iran has made it clear that it is not interested in interfering in countries' internal affairs. Iran wishes to have cordial relations and coexist amicably with its neighbors. Our conduct toward Afghanistan in recent years is testimony to our policy.

For many years, the border with Afghanistan has not been as secure as it should be but we have never committed any aggression against its territory. On the other hand many Western countries, especially the United States, have been visiting the region. In their overt and covert talks, interviews, etc., they have been spreading their propaganda to justify their increasing military presence in the region. If this destructive interference did not exist we would not have any problem with regard to regional cooperation. Our relations with the region are based on regional and bilateral cooperation.

In our bilateral relations we do not have any animosity toward the region's countries. With some we have very wonderful relations and with others, due to interference from a third party, our relations may not be very warm. However, there is no enmity between us and any of the six region's countries. We want to have friendly relations. Our stance on the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf is very clear. These are Iranian islands and we have certain arrangements with the United Arab Emirates which should be implemented. These executive arrangements are for overseeing our dealings with the Arabs who belong to the UAE and al-Shariqah but who are residents of the Abu Musa island.

These are reliable arrangements and if there are any problems in implementing them, we are ready to negotiate so that they can be implemented in the best possible manner. They will gradually realize that Iran does not have covetous designs on any country and does not wish to annex any part of others' territories. However, Iran will not permit even one centimeter of its own soil to be aggressed against. Our neighbors would benefit if they forged friendly, fraternal, and goodneighborly relations with Iran, regardless of the sedition being fomented by our common enemies. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] In what Iranian city will the tripartite session of the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria, and Turkey be convened and what is the axis of the talks?

[Velayati] This session will be held either in Tehran or Esfahan, depending on how much time the participating ministers have. If there is enough time, the session will be held in Esfahan otherwise in Tehran. The axis of these talks will be the same as that in our previous discussions. Our policy is a sequel to our past policies but with the incorporation of the latest developments.

[ETTELA'AT] Dr. Velayati. We are extremely grateful for the time that you have placed at our disposal.

Article Addresses U.S. 'Breaches' in Tehran Policy

MM2009115495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Sep 95 p 8

[Article by Amir Taheri: "Breaches in U.S. Policy Toward Tehran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The current leadership in Tehran cannot, even if it wanted, suddenly abandon its extremist policy, stop "exporting" its revolution abroad, and become a useful member of the international community because that would mean the end of the revolutionary phase and the beginning of the building of the state. Iran may be ready for that but its leadership still rejects that trend.

Almost six months have passed since the Clinton administration revealed a new policy aimed at intensifying pressures on Iran. Some sanctions were also announced in support of that policy, but since then there have been five major breaches of that policy:

1. The state-owned French oil company Total has signed a $600 million contract with Iran, a contract which the U.S. oil company CONOCO had dropped.

2. An agreement has been reached under which Russia will complete the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power station for $800 million. Two new contracts will be signed next month for the construction of two nuclear stations at a cost of $1.1 billion.

3. Japan has announced a timetable for granting Iran a credit line of $480 million for a hydroelectric project in southwest Iran.

4. China has signed contracts for the construction of three nuclear stations in the next five years. These new nuclear complexes could place Iran at the top of the list

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of states possessing nuclear technology between West Europe and the Indian Subcontinent.

5. Germany and France have resumed commercial credit facilities for Iran, thus reducing pressure on the Iranian rial. That has resulted in a 22-percent rise in the value of the Iranian currency against other major currencies, in comparison with the level it reached last June (its lowest level).

The U.S. policy on Iran has also suffered other setbacks.

The giant U.S. oil company Chevron is trying to reach agreement with the Iranian Government whereby it would be able to export crude oil from the Tengiz oil fields in Kazakhstan. Chevron hopes to be able to build a pipeline linking the fields of Kazakhestan, Central Asia, and international shipping routes.

Furthermore, many U.S. subsidiary companies have continued their commercial dealings with Iran, especially through Dubai and Turkey. The continuation of the Coca Cola bottling and marketing operation in Iran is of special significance.

In 1993, on the initiative of the United States, the major industrial countries unanimously agreed in principle in Paris not to supply Iran with dual-use technological equipment, but that agreement has been ignored even by some branches of U.S. companies. The problems that have stood in the way of Iran's acquisition of dual-use technology are due to Iran's liquidity problems and not to the boycott.

Ironically, the difficulties which accompanied the marketing of the oil Iran had originally agreed to sell to U.S. companies prompted Iran to pursue a more moderate policy within OPEC, which spared OPEC a new crisis and in effect prevented Iran from exploiting such a crisis to its advantage.

Some analysts believe that the new U.S. policy will put obstacles in the way of the Iranian Government but will not affect Iran's attitude and positions in the international arena. That view is supported by the majority of Republicans in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Critics of the U.S. policy on Iran point to numerous weaknesses, the most important being:

1. The U.S. Administration has taken its new position on Iran for mostly symbolic reasons and for domestic considerations.

2. The prevailing view in Iran and in some European and Arab capitals is that Washington actually wanted to show dissatisfaction with the Iranian regime but did not in fact wish to besiege it.

3. Many believe that Washington is not prepared to go all the way in the application of sanctions against Iran. The administration has, for instance, announced that it would reject any attempt by Congress to stop aid to Russia as a reaction to its contribution to the development of Iran's nuclear programs.

4. The timeframe for the implementation of the new policy has been set at one year, but there are no specific objectives set out in that policy. So it would be impossible to assess or test the effectiveness of that policy in the coming months.

5. That policy was drawn up on the assumption that the current Iranian leaders could, if they wanted, change their policies and courses, but that could not happen at all, not even if the current Iranian regime wanted change. It would not be able to do that because the current leadership is the captive of its own extremist positions, strict traditions, and revolutionary course which cannot be abandoned easily.

6. The U.S. Administration's policy was determined on the basis of governmental contacts without paying enough attention to relations between the two peoples. It is important for the Iranian and American peoples to realize that their common interests lie in changing the nature of the current relations between the two countries.

Therefore, and unless the new U.S. position is linked to internal political developments in Iran, that position is unlikely to achieve any of its objectives within the next few months.

It is possible, however, to intensify and sharpen the sanctions. The most extreme idea was that proposed by Republican Senator D'Amato, who called for the closure of U.S. markets to companies trading with Iran.

It is not easy to implement such a measure. The United States is bound by the provisions of the GATT agreement and it supports the new international trade agreement, a factor which could restrict its freedom to use trade as a weapon against Iran.

It is, therefore, possible to say that the U.S. sanctions have placed some obstacles in the way of Tehran but have not influenced Iran's general policies. It may be necessary to tighten the sanctions after the expiry of that "contemplation year" Clinton gave the mullahs, if no tangible change occurs in the attitude of the Iranian regime. We should remember an important factor directly linked to the political situation in Iran, namely that the reexamination of Iranian foreign policy would be a very complex matter indeed.

The reason is both simple and complicated at the same time. The revolution of the mullahs is in need of

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extremist positions in its foreign policy in order to fill the ideological vacuum it has suffered from all the time. Furthermore, there is a contradiction between the interests of the Iranian revolution and the interests of Iran as a national state. It is in the interest of Iran, the national state, to have close and positive ties with whoever purchases its oil and provides it with the capital, technology, and markets Iran needs in the coming two decades if it is not to lose its advanced position among the oil-exporting countries.

Forcing Iran to pursue such a new course on the basis of that simple fact would require a radical change of ideology and of the political decisionmakers in Tehran. Unless that happens, the sanctions will continue to harm the poor classes in Iran without achieving the desired results. The Iranian people may at present be ready to close the chapter of the revolution and begin to build the state, but there is nothing to indicate that the current leadership is ready for such a major change.

Velayati Meets With Bosnian Foreign Minister

LD1609090695 Tehran IRNA in English 0831 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Bosnian counterpart Muhamed Secirbegovic Friday [15 September] in Kuala Lumpur reviewed the latest political and military developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The two ministers are currently in Malaysia to attend the joint foreign and defence ministers meeting of the Organizattion of the Islamic conference (OIC) on developments in Bosnia.

They expressed satisfaction over the consequences of the Islamic Contact Group meeting and called for continuation of such cooperation to lead to establishment of peace and balance in Balkan region.

In the meeting Velayati reiterated that Iran will support allocation of World Bank (WB) credit for reconstruction of Bosnia in the forthcoming wb meeting.

Bilateral economic cooperation as well as reconstruction of Bosnia were among major topics discussed by the two officials.

Rafsanjani Meets Mexican, Yemeni, Azerbaijani Envoys

LD2009210695 Tehran IRNA in English 2042 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA — Mexican, Yemeni, and Azeri ambassadors to Iran, submitted their credentials to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in three separate meetings here on Wednesday [20 September].

The Mexican ambassador to Iran, Jose Escamilla Marquez, conveying best regards from his president and nation for Iranian president and nation, gave a brief report on his country's economic programs, the national development, and the need for setting up relations with the Middle East and Central Asian regions.

Mexico attached great importance to its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran as a trustworthy, strategic, stable, and developing country in the region, said Marquez.

Praising the recent Iranian progress in the economic and reconstruction areas, the Mexican ambassador called the anti-Iranian propaganda by the foreign mass media as untrue and contrary to the reality in Iran.

According to the presidential public relations office, Rafsanjani, referring to the place of the Latin America particularly Mexico in Iran's foreign policy, called for further expansion of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Considering the two countries' trade and technical potentials, Rafsanjani expressed hope for expansion of Tehran-Mexico City relations within the framework of a joint economic commission between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni ambassador to Iran, 'Abdallah Muhammad al- Razi, in his meeting with President Rafsanjani conveyed his President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's regards for Rafsanjani, and assessed as very important the Iranian role in the regional stability and international cooperation.

Referring the Islamic Republic of Iran's recent progress in the economic and industrial areas, Salih called for the Iranian technical share in the reconstruction plans of Yemeni oil and power plants.

In the meeting, Rafsanjani referred to the cultural and religious ties between the two Iranian and Yemeni nations and said it was in the Iranian interest to have expanded relations with Yemen.

Azeri ambassador to Iran also in his meeting with Rafsanjani, termed as unforgettable memory for his government and nation, Rafsanjani's visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan two years ago, and said that despite attempts made by the enemies of the two nations, his country desired to expand brotherly relations with Iran.

Welcoming expansion of bilateral relations between Tehran and Baku, the Iranian president expressed the need for efforts to be made by the two countries'

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officials for paving the way for further expansion of relations.

Velayati Leaves for Economic Talks in Ashgabat

LD2009124895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Tranlated Excerpt] Today, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left for Ashgabat for the purposes of participating in the economic cooperation meetings of Iran, Turkmenistan, and India. The sessions, which will convene in Ashgabat today, will be studying practical ways for economic cooperation between the three countries. Use made of Iran's roads for the transport of India's goods to Turkmenistan and other Central Asian countries will also be discussed during the meetings. [passage omitted]

Daily Views 'Vital Role' With India in Central Asia

LD2009101795 Tehran IRNA in English 0839 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA — A morning daily here Wednesday [20 September] commented that Iran and India can play a vital role in Central Asia not only for economic and commercial development but also for peace and stability in this part of the world.

The English-language daily IRAN NEWS in its editorial said, "regional cooperation is the order of the day. There are very many regional cooperation organizations in Asian and African continents, but unfortunately, except for a few, they are not successful either because of conflicting political interests among the member countries or as a result of meddling by the big powers."

The paper added, "regional cooperation is a must not only for economic development but also for peace, security and stability of the region. Regional cooperation also paves the way for achieving self-reliance by the individual states."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is a leading champion of the cause of regional and bilateral cooperation with certain terms and conditions. The terms and conditions are that the bilateral or multi-national cooperation should be based on mutual interest and respect and without interfering into each other's internal affairs," the daily pointed out.

At present Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao is in Ashgabat on an official visit to Turkmenistan.

"India, Iran, and Turkmenistan could discuss the means for cooperation in the fields of transportation, industry and trade. Iran's cooperation with several republics of the former Soviet Union continues. The Islamic Republic of Iran could join hands with India for cooperation with the Central Asian republics," the daily added.

"Since Prime Minister Rao took power in India, the world's largest democracy, offered opportunities for closer economic commercial and technical cooperation with its neighbors. India, during the last three years, has successfully experimented with the market economy. Indian involvement in Central Asia along with Iran will definitely produce greater constructive results for the entire region," said the article.

The commentary continued, "the Central Asian republics are members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). The ECO members have all the facilities needed for closer cooperation. But unfortunately, ECO could not succeed the way it should have as it also became a target of conflicting political interests."

"Anyway, ECO should not show sensivity towards Iran and Central Asian republics for their plan of trilateral cooperation. These trilateral cooperation plans are not designed against any country or group of countries. If these plans are successful, the entire region will benefit from them," the daily added.

The paper emphasized, "as we know four years after declaring their independence, the republics of the cental asia are undergoing a critical period of change. These countries have to deal with the challenging new concept of sovereignty."

"Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan, where the Indian prime minister is to visit, have been the slowest in economic development. They need foreign investment and assistance and above all sincere and brotherly guidance. Iran and India can play a vital role in the Central Asia not only for economic and commercial development but also for peace and stability in this part of the world," the commentary concluded.

Official Addresses Free Trade Zone Opportunities

LD2009124095 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA — A senior Iranian official said that Iran's free trade zones are the best places for commercial and economic activities.

Speaking to the latest issue of the economic review of the daily IRAN NEWS, presidential advisor for free trade zone affairs, Morteza Alviri said, "The free trade zones provide the best opportunities for the healthy trade and economic activities."

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There are certain rules and regulations which give guarantees for all-out commercial and economic activities in Iran's three free trade zones, the secretary of the High Council of the Free Trade Zones of Iran added.

"Geographical situation of the Iranian free trade zones provides all necessary access to the outside world across the globe," he stressed.

Alviri, former member of the second and the present term of the Majles said that no advance deposit of hard currency for the export of the goods is required in the free trade zones. For imports, he stated, opening of the letters of credit is not essential. Importers and exporters in the free trade zones may continue their commercial activities without any hurdle, Alviri noted.

In the second five-year plan, major attention has been paid to the exports of non-oil goods, he said, adding that in the light of facilities existing there, Iran's three free trade zones, Kish, Qeshm and Chah Bahar can play crucial role in meeting the target set in the development plan.

Iranian free zones have special locational advantage with respect to access to the local and regional markets, he stated adding, "The Iranian domestic market is one of the largest in the region." Iran has a consuming population of 63 millions and total volume of foreign trade reaches dlrs. 45 billion annually, he underlined.

"According to the World Bank, the purchasing power concentrated in Iran is more than dlrs. 200 billion," he said.

Besides Iran, Alviri reiterated, the regional countries' 300 millions population also makes a good consumer market for the businessmen in the Iranian free trade zone.

Maneuvers To Be Carried Out For Naval Defense Week

LD2009155895 Tehran IRNA in English 1332 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA — The joint staff of the Armed Forces here Tuesday [19 September] announced that the Great Khaibar manuevre will be carried out in Hormuz Strait and Hengam island in the Persian Gulf on the occasion of the sacred defence week [beginning 22 September].

A number of naval commandoes as well as different units of naval forces of the Islamic Republic Guards Corps (IRGC) and Navy of the Islamic Republic's army will take part in the amphibious wargames.

The four-day Khaibar exercises aimed at maintaining the combat readiness and operational potentials of the Armed Forces is to be start on September 22.

Meanwhile, the public relations department of the navy announced that special programs have been arranged by the force to be carried out in the city of Abu Musa, in the Persian Gulf on the same occasion.

Official on Regional Affairs, Expelling Foreigners

LD2109111595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eve of the Holy Defense Week, this morning in a gathering of journalists Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani, the commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, explained the role of the navy during the period of holy defense [Iran-Iraq War], the strengthening of the capability of the navy, and the preparedness of that force for confronting any possible threats, as well as cooperation with the Persian Gulf littoral states in order to safeguard the security of the region.

The Navy commander stressed: By making use of the experiences of the period of holy defense, by staging military exercises and by achieving self-sufficiency in the field of military industries, Iran's Navy is fully prepared to engage in action in the fastest possible time against any possible threats.

Admiral Shamkhani stressed the need for maintaining the security of the Persian Gulf in collaboration with the Persian Gulf regional states and added: Persian Gulf littoral states should put an end to the imposed arms race by expelling foreign forces, and they should use the national resources of the region for the sake of their development.

Pakistan

Editorial Urges Response to Kabul 'Hostility'

BK2009134695 Islamabad THE NATION in English 20 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Belated Response"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad's response to the Kabul regime's undisguised hostility towards Pakistan has been, to say the least, slow and unduly cautious. Foreign secretary Najmuddin Sheikh, who briefed newsmen on the current state of relations with Afghanistan, has announced the government's intention to selectively withdraw certain facilities being enjoyed by the Kabul regime, albeit he declined to disclose the details. Having ruled out severing of diplomatic relations, Islamabad's

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retaliatory measures could only go as far as closure of some offices or expulsion of certain diplomats, which in comparison to the ordeal of Pakistani diplomats in Kabul and, their, mass exodus thereof would be seen as a mere eye wash. The Foreign Secretary himself acknowledged that there was evidence of India's involvement in Kabul. Indian flights, were landing at Bagram airbase and unloading military equipment, besides Indians helping to service Kabul's aircraft, he said. If his reference to the Kabul regime as "one particular Afghan faction" implies a policy shift, then there is no reason why Pakistan should not pursue the stance to its logical conclusion, and withdraw its recognition of the 'Rabbani clique' as the lawful Afghan government. Why should Pakistan tolerate bullying and blackmail by one particular Afghan faction which above all has the audacity to seek New Delhi's patronage and at the same time accuse Pakistan of interference in Afghan affairs.

It is perhaps time to review the entire gamut of Afghan policy and put across the message openly and clearly that no particular Afghan faction is entitled to call itself the legitimate government of Afghanistan, no matter even if it happens to be in control of the capital city. We should be ready to do business with all Afghan factions, treating them at par as 'contenders for power' and establishing relations on the basis of reciprocity. Thus, we should no longer hesitate to offer help and assistance to any Afghan faction which is keen on friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. And if the Taleban are willing to play ball with Pakistan, and not let the territory under their writ be used for activities prejudicial to Pakistan's security and national interest, they should be accorded the most favoured status and Rabbani and company should be told to mind their own business. Hopefully, the Foreign Office is seized of the urgency of decisive action, and the so- called 'selective withdrawal of facilities' will be geared up to make amends for the 'too little, too late' syndrome. But if it turns out to be a bureaucratic drill, devoid of direction and a sense of timing, it could be a far cry from what would be considered an appropriate response to Kabul's insolence.

Islamabad Reportedly Expels 13 Afghan Diplomats

BK2109093995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0921 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Sept 21 (AFP) — Pakistan expelled 13 Afghan diplomats Thursday [21 September], declaring them persona non grata. The expelled diplomats, who were given 48 hours to leave the country, belong to the Afghan embassy in Islamabad and Afghan consulates in Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar, a foreign office spokesman here said.

The spokesman did not specify reasons for the action, saying "we do not think their presence is necessary."

The expulsion follows growing tension between the two countries over Afghanistan's contentions that Pakistan is aiding factions in the Afghan war.

Expulsion of Diplomats Confirmed

BK2109103395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has declared 13 Afghan Embassy and consulate personnel as persona non grata and has asked them to leave the country within 48 hours. A Foreign Office spokesman said at a weekly briefing in Islamabad today that out of the 13, seven are working at the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad and two each are working at Afghan consulates in Karachi, Quetta, and Peshawar.

When the spokesman was asked what effect this decision will have on relations between the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan, he said that a majority of the Afghan people have condemned the beating up of Pakistani diplomats at the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul and the burning of the embassy. He said that Pakistan is attempting to keep its reaction within limits in order to continue support for efforts by the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to restore peace in Afghanistan.

Commentary Questions Legitimacy of 'Kabul Regime'

BK2109055795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Sep 95

[Commentary by A.B.S. Jafri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Security Council continues to ignore consideration of Afghanistan's unfounded and unsubstantiated allegations against Pakistan. Abdorrahim Ghafurzai, the acting foreign minister of the Kabul regime, has written two letters demanding a fact-finding mission and a formal Security Council meeting to consider the issue. However, the net result of all these wild allegations have been that the president of the Security Council, Francesco Paolo Fulci of Italy, issued a formal statement expressing concern at the ransacking of Pakistan's embassy in Kabul. The statement was issued after close consultations and consideration of Kabul's wild accusation and reply by Pakistan's foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali.

It may be recalled that Pakistan's foreign minister had written to the UN secretary general, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, that the Afghan diatribe against Pakistan was a deliberate prelude and an attempt to justify the mob

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attack on the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul. He informed the United Nations that this wanton act, which resulted in the death of one official and serious injuries to all other personnel and ransacking of the embassy building, was wholly the responsibility of the Kabul authorities.

Pakistan has announced selective withdrawal of facilities of hospitality on its soil to the authorities in Kabul. At a news conference in Islamabad on Monday [18 September], the Pakistan foreign secretary disclosed this to newsmen, but ruled out severance of diplomatic relations with Afghanistan. He said by severing ties with Afghanistan, the impression could be conveyed that Pakistan was abandoning the people of that country. In the light of what the Afghan authorities have done to our embassy in Kabul, there was no other decision which Islamabad could have taken.

Throughout the jihad against the Soviet interventionists, this country extended every conceivable support to more than 3 million Afghan refugees. By allowing the mojahedin to operate with Pakistan as a base, relations with the former Soviet Union were seriously jeopardized. The mojahedin leaders and the factions they led were offered the best of hospitability, not the least of them were Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani and his Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society]. Possibly with the view not to place hurdles in the way of the then ongoing jihad, the Pakistan Government overlooked a very obvious factor. A former governor of Paktia, Professor Majrooh, had carried out a survey among Afghan refugees which showed that not more than one and half percent of them supported the various mojahedin factions. For his work, the professor was assassinated.

Now, after engineering an attack against the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul in which it was put to the torch, one of the messengers killed, and the ambassador and other staff seriously injured, the drama of Pakistani spies has been staged. Our foreign secretary has not even deemed it fit to comment on this canard since it has been forcefully denied by the government. The argument that the so- called spies were carrying Pakistani passports is not tenable. As Afghan refugees can carry these and also our identity cards, where is the hassle in forging Pakistani passports?

As to the legitimacy of the Rabbani government, it is highly suspect since the authorities in Kabul are clinging to power through force of arms. The Pakistan Government is, therefore, justified in maintaining the Rabbani government in Kabul is no more legitimate. The decision, therefore, of looking more carefully into facilities like maintenance of offices, diplomatic missions, and presence of other agencies representing the Kabul regime is a very wise one. While doing all this, it is high time Islamabad thoroughly reviewed its foreign policy, particularly with regard to Afghanistan. More so keeping in mind that 10,000 Indian troops are said to have landed in Kabul. The Pakistan Government, we feel, should use its good offices to get all the warring factions to the negotiating table and try to sort out things before it is too late.

Prime Minister Links India Talks to Kashmir Issue

BK2109035695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that talks between Pakistan and India could begin tomorrow if New Delhi agreed to discuss the Kashmir issue. In an interview with an Indian television network, she said Pakistan had told India that it is ready for talks at any time. Pakistan-India talks should have a two-point agenda — Pakistan-India relations and the Kashmir issue.

The prime minister criticized her Indian counterpart's stand that the two countries should hold a dialogue without preconditions. She said the Indian prime minister should make clear his stand in extending an offer to hold talks with Pakistan. Although his offer implies that India is ready to discuss the Kashmir issue, it is not willing to do this at the negotiating table.

Replying to a question about allegations that the Kashmiri freedom fighters are supported and trained by Pakistan, the prime minister said these allegations are absolutely incorrect. The Kashmiri freedom struggle is indigenous. Pakistan has even demanded that international observers be posted along the Line of Control to check the allegations leveled by India independently. She made it clear, however, that Pakistan will continue to extend political support to the Kashmiris.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto rebutted the Indian prime minister's assertion that the supply of weapons to Pakistan would create a military imbalance in the region. She said former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi did not raise any objections when Pakistan paid to buy some weapons from the United States in 1989. Similarly, Rajiv Gandhi did not blame Pakistan for the situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir, as Narasimha Rao is doing now.

'Early Breakthrough' Seen in Karachi Peace Talks

BK2009141295 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government and [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-Altaf Group team leaders have expressed optimism about an early breakthrough in their

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talks for restoration of peace in Karachi. They were talking to newsmen after the second round of the ninth session of their negotiations in Islamabad today, which lasted over three and half hours. The session is not yet over and will continue tomorrow.

[Government team leader] Mr. N.D. Khan said we are discussing the agenda point by point. So far, we have sorted out five points after reaching consensus. After going through the whole agenda, the agreed points will be given the shape of an accord. In reply to a question about expected time for reaching an agreement, he said it is hard to predict about the time the process may take.

[Altaf Group team leader] Ajmal Dehlvi said the very fact that the process is continuing is a manifestation of its success. It is encouraging that the talks in a positive direction. Apparently, it seems the negotiating parties lack sincerity, but he can assure both sides are serious about restoring peace in Karachi. In reply to a question, he said his team's points mainly comprise political rights and demands, while the government's agenda consists of steps for restoration of law and order. He said in the bargain the government can guarantee peace and his party acceptance of their rights and demands. Asked how his group can guarantee peace, Mr. Dehlvi said since his group enjoys the mandate of people of Karachi, it can guarantee peace in the city.

Nawaz Claims President Encourages 'Horse-Trading'

BK1509132395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 15 Sep 95 p 1, 13

[Article by Khalid Qayum]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—Leader of the Opposition Nawaz Sharif on Thursday [14 September] charged the government of horse-trading in Punjab and held the President responsible for encouraging the "immoral" activities.

After arriving here, the president of Pakistan Muslim League (N) [PML-Nawaz] talked to the Press at his Parliament House chamber and followed it with a half hour long speech in the National Assembly on political change in Punjab.

"Has the President vowed to be faithful to the country or Benazir Bhutto?", Nawaz asked putting an end to the short-lived 'Love Affair' between the President and the Opposition. The government's defeat was turned into victory through use of constitutional power by the President. "He has disappointed the nation as he believes in horse-trading", he said.

After NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] the President and the prime minister followed up the relentless use of constitutional powers in Punjab. "Governor Saroop was entrusted with the mandate to oust Manzoor Wattoo. Entire government machinery, agencies and heads of Banks were active in Lahore to help PPP [Pakistan People's Party] in horse-trading" he said.

Claiming of being victorious Nawaz said "Asif and his friend Zulfiqar Miza were offering members money. Our Punjab members were offered Rs [rupees] 30 million each to support PPP candidate, but they refused. Benazir does not have an hour to spend in Karachi while she remained in Lahore for 10 days to supervise horse-trading." Later, however, Zulfiqar Mirza denied the charges. "People accuse politicians of being corrupt, but they are not corrupt. There are a few in the disguise of politicians who are promoting corruption. The PPP is being headed by one such person in the garb of politician. Benazir and Asif Zardari are the corrupt people in the disguise of politicians," he accused.

He said there was no need to enforce governor's rule in Punjab and added that constitution was violated when Wattoo was ousted to replace him with another chief minister.

Quoting developments in Punjab he said the time for filing nomination papers expired at 6 pm and Pervaiz Elahai should have been elected the chief minister unopposed. Since PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front] could not reach a consensus on candidate the governor extended the time till 9 pm as if it was some local bodies election.

He said destruction of democracy had started and now Balochistan was on line as Bhutto family could not bear a government of some other party. "We accepted PPP government as we had 73 and the PPP had 86 members in centre. The PPP should have responded in the same democratic manner and allowed PML(N) to form government in Punjab since he had 106 and they had 93 members." He said PPP's role in 1993 was also known to everyone when it conspired with the then president and other people and violated the decisions of the Supreme Court. "I am smelling danger for Pakistan and warn of dire consequences if the government did not amend its undemocratic attitude" Nawaz said.

To a question he said that the entire nation had formed a grand alliance against the government and the politicians would do the same as well. He said he would attend the national conference convened by Nawab Akbar Bugti adding Bugti was being victimised and that he required help against the "fascist government".

He reiterated that mid-term polls had become the need of the time.

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APP adds: Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Prof N.D. Khan has said that Nawaz Sharif's statement, in the House, was out of sheer frustration and despondency and does not suit the stature of a leader of the Opposition to level such wild allegations that president and Prime Minister massively use their powers.

In reply to the address of the leader of the opposition, Prof Khan said, Nawaz Sharif miserably attempted to mislead the nation. He said, there was no need of taking up the Punjab issue as two hours had already been allocated to discuss the issue Sunday.

He said the Presidential action has a legal protection and he acted accordingly. He said after resignation of the Provincial Cabinet there was no way out except suspension of Provincial Assembly to avoid political crisis.

He said the Nawaz's speech was nothing but biased opinion on the issues of national importance. Khan said although it was the right of the leader of the opposition to criticise policies of the government but he should not have got so personal.

He said he was unable to understand that in which direction the leader of the opposition was taking the politics.

He said that there was no violation of the constitution with regard to the NWFP Assembly after the decision of the Court.

Prof. N.D. Khan said that Nawaz Sharif has analysed the situation of the whole country. As regards to Karachi, he said that, "we held eight rounds of talks with Altaf Group and negotiation were going ahead towards a compromise and democratic settlement." He said that law and order situation in Karachi has improved considerably besides restoration of economic stability.

He said that Chief Minister in Punjab has been elected with the support and majority of 152 members. Paying tributes to the Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and PML (J) [Junejo] Chief Hamid Nasir Chattha for their far sightedness, he said the PDF coalition has been further strengthened.

Prof Khan said that Nawaz Sharif has failed to demonstrate the caliber of the Opposition leader and he only attempted to involve Asif Ali Zardari in his wild allegations.

Khan said that Nawaz Sharif levelled serious allegation against a member of the House, but had no courage to listen to his point of view. He said it was Nawaz Sharif's psychological defeat that he left the House immediately after delivering the statement.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Still Holding Hostages From Hijacked Vessel

BK2009115595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Eighty-seven passengers of the Iris Moana [vessel] were transported from Point Pedro to Kankesanturai yesterday. They were transported on board the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] vessel (Mercks Hubrenan). The ICRC in a news release said that Sri Lanka Navy had ensured their transport to the islands off the Jaffna peninsula from Point Pedro. This follows the transport of 40 passengers by ICRC from Puliyankulam to Colombo, Trincomalee and Puttalam last week. According to the news release, six passengers decided on their free will to stay in Jaffna with their relatives. One passed away on the 29th of last month in Mullaittivu. Two passengers and the eight crew members of the Iris Moana are still in LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] custody.

LTTE Attacks Army Post; Other Clashes Reported

BK2109020095 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 21 Sep 95

[Unattributed report: "Seven soldiers and 10 rebels killed in the East" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seven soldiers were killed and nine others injured early Wednesday [20 September] when a group of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) gunmen attacked an army post in Nawamangalagama, Ampara.

"The attackers fled after a heavy fire fight. The situation at the camp has been brought under control," defence sources in Colombo said. All injured soldiers were evacuated to the Ampara hospital.

They said dozens of LTTE cadres participated in the pre-dawn assault. Eight LTTE cadres were confirmed killed during the attack sources said adding that they expected the actual casualty figure to be much more than that.

Meanwhile at least two rebels were killed in a separate incident on Tuesday afternoon during a clash with elite police Special Task Force (STF) troops at Chenakudirippu, 18 kilometres north east of Ampara, the Operational Headquarters of the Defence Ministry said. Two STF constables were injured. STF personnel recovered two rebel dead bodies, an automatic rifle and a pistol, an electronic timing device and other items.

In Kalkudah, Batticaloa, LTTE cadres hijacked five fishing boats belonging to Muslim fishermen on Tuesday.

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Reports said the Tigers used speed boats to hijack the fishing craft and the fishermen. One fishing boat and two fishermen were later released.

Meanwhile a police constable was shot dead by LTTE cadres in Eravur on Tuesday. A civilian who was injured in the shooting has been warded at the Eravur hospital. Tigers have also destroyed an electricity transformer at Samanthurai, Ampara, according to reports from the east.

Minister Denies Report on Planned Banning of LTTE

BK2009015095 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 20 Sep 95

[Report by Rodney Martinesz: "Ban of LTTE: Minister Sets Record Straight" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar yesterday told parliament that there was no statement made by our US Ambassador Jayantha Dhanapal that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] will be banned in Sri Lanka, and/or a request made to other countries in this regard.

The foreign ministry had checked the 'Daily News' report of September 15 by Los Angeles correspondent Deeptha Leelarathna and it was denied by Mr. Dhanapal.

Clarifying further Minister Kadirgamar said there had been a conference attended by Mr. Dhanapal in Michigan and while part of the Lankan expatriate participants spoke in favour of the LTTE, another section opposed the organisation calling for its banning.

This meeting took place on July 15 and it was wrong to use the term "recently" as done in the report.

The report either knowingly or unknowingly was erroneous. He hoped the media would put the record straight.

The Minister was responding to an Adjournment Question by Mr. A.C.S. Hameed who asked:

The 'Daily News' of September 15 had given publicity to the statement of Sri Lanka's US Ambassador Jayantha Dhanapal that the LTTE will be banned soon in Sri Lanka and a request would be made to other countries in this regard. Were other ambassadors and high commissioners communicated together with the preparatory work in this regard pending a formal request to these governments.

President Reportedly Rules Out Cabinet Reshuffle

BK2109020595 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 21 Sep 95

[Unattributed report: "Media must act with responsibility, says president — 'No cabinet reshuffle or any other changes'" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There will be no cabinet reshuffle or any change in the post of prime minister, President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga told the government parliamentary group meeting on Monday [18 September].

The president said friction and discontent rumours within the government and cabinet are mere falsehoods spread by certain newspapers.

The president said, the media including the newspapers should always act with a sense of responsibility. I have not only treasured media freedom but also fought for the cause. But as in the other fields, the media and media persons had a vital national responsibility to perform. No one can enjoy unlimited freedom in the performance of that responsibility.

The president also told the meeting that large-scale development projets on the lines of the southern province project have been drawn up for the development of Gampaha, Kurunegala, Matale and Kandy districts. Steps will also be taken to set up another 300 factories under the BOI [Board of Investment] scheme.

It is reported that government MPs rejected claims by certain newspapers that they were critical of the president for her failure to attend parliamentary group meetings. The MPs have said their prime concern was the safety of the president and as such they had no problem regarding her absence from group or any other meetings. They have said they are prepared to attend meetings at any venue as requested by the president.

In response to allegations by certain MPs that ministers could not be approached in most instances, the president had said the reason may be because ministers are busy 12 to 15 hours a day with official duties, in addition to other official and public engagements, but the problem would not arise if arrangements are made to meet them by prior appointment.

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